

Kuwait contacts Interpol to arrest fugitive MP Dashti



Duterte threatens to pull Philippines out of UN



Tiny Spanish publisher clones world's most mysterious book



Kenya's Kipchoge romps to Rio marathon gold



'IS CHILD BOMBER' KILLS 51 AT TURKEY WEDDING

VICTIMS INCLUDE WOMEN AND CHILDREN • KUWAIT CONDEMNS ATTACK



Min 27°
Max 45°
High Tide 02:22 & 14:18
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IRAQ HANGS 36 MILITANTS OVER 2014 MASSACRE

NASIRIYAH, Iraq: Iraq yesterday hanged 36 men convicted over the 2014 massacre by fighters and allied militants of up to 1,700 military recruits, officials said. They had been found guilty of involvement in the "Speicher" massacre, named after a base near Tikrit where the recruits were kidnapped before being executed in a massacre claimed by the Islamic State group. "The executions of 36 convicted over the Speicher crime were carried out this morning in Nasiriyah prison," a spokesman for the governor's office in Dhiqar, the province of which Nasiriyah is the capital, told AFP.

"The governor of Dhiqar, Yahya Al-Nasseri and Justice Minister Haidar Al-Zamili were present to oversee the executions," Abdelhassan Dawood said. "They were transferred to Nasiriyah last week after the president approved the executions," he said, referring to the necessary green light from Fuad Masum. Following the death of more than 300 people in the worst ever single bomb attack to strike Baghdad last month, Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi had said he wanted to expedite the execution of inmates sentenced to death in terrorism cases.

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GAZIANTEP, Turkey: Ambulances arrive at the site of an explosion on Saturday following a late night militant attack on a wedding party. — AFP

GAZIANTEP, Turkey: A suicide bomber as young as 12 killed at least 51 people at a wedding in Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday, pointing the finger at the Islamic State group. Erdogan said Saturday's blast in Gaziantep near the Syria border "was the result of a suicide bomber aged between 12 and 14 who either detonated (the bomb) or others detonated it". The explosion was the latest attack to rock the key NATO member in a horrific year that has seen strikes blamed on Kurdish and Islamist militants as well as a bloody July 15 botched coup.

The president said the Islamic State group was the "likely perpetrator" of the bomb attack, the deadliest in 2016, that targeted a celebration attended by many Kurds. The remains of a suicide vest were found at the scene, the chief prosecutor's office said yesterday, according to broadcaster CNN-Turk. Women and children, including a three-month-old baby, were among the dead, witnesses said.

Kuwait yesterday condemned the terror attack. In a statement, an official source at the Foreign Ministry reiterated that Kuwait backs and supports all measures Turkey would take to preserve security and stability in the country. The official source reaffirmed Kuwait's stands against all forms of terrorism, whatever the sources or justifications are, expressing condolences to the victims' families and to the Turkish people and government.

Gulser Ates, one of scores wounded in the attack, told Hurriyet the attack took place as the party was breaking up in the mainly Kurdish neighborhood. "We were sitting on chairs, having a chat with one of our neighbors."

Continued on Page 13



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's forward Neymar celebrates scoring the winning goal during the penalty shootout of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games men's football gold medal match between Brazil and Germany at the Maracana stadium on Saturday. — AFP

NEYMAR CROWNED SAMBA KING, HOSTS END ON HIGH

FARAH SEALS DOUBLE-DOUBLE

RIO DE JANEIRO: Neymar sent Brazil into ecstasy as he clinched Olympic football gold and Mo Farah sealed a rare distance double-double in a pulsating final evening of track action in Rio on Saturday. Neymar swept home a brilliant free-kick and scored a trademark stutter-run penalty to win a shootout against Germany as the hosts headed towards yesterday's closing ceremony on a high. Later, Britain's Farah headlined the last night of track and field as he won a thrilling 5,000m race to earn the first consecutive 5,000m-10,000m doubles in 40 years.

Millions of Brazilians were glued to the men's football and celebrations were long and loud when the five-time world champions grabbed their first Olympic title at the Maracana stadium. Victory, 5-4 on penalties after the scores were locked at 1-1 after extra time, left Neymar and his teammates sobbing uncontrollably as they erased the nightmare of Brazil's 7-1 World Cup semifinal defeat to Germany two years ago.

It was a fairytale finish for Neymar, who missed the 2014 defeat with a back injury and faced heavy criticism for his performances early in the Olympic competition. "This is one of the best things that has happened in my life," said the Barcelona star who promptly stepped down as captain. "Now (the critics will) have to swallow what they said."

Yesterday, after losing the last two finals, Brazil reclaimed the Olympic men's volleyball gold medal with a 3-0 victory over Italy at the Maracazinho in Rio yesterday. Watched on by Neymar, the volleyball team made it a golden double following the Selecao's penalty shootout victory over Germany in the next door Maracana on Saturday night.

Farah was pushed hard in the 5,000m before he kicked home in the final straight to become the first man since Finnish great Lasse Viren in 1976 to retain two Olympic distance titles. "This is the most satisfying win of the four, it is incredible," said the 33-year-old Somali-born Londoner. — AFP (See Page 20)

IRAN TOUTS MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

LOCALLY-MADE JET ENGINE ALSO UNVEILED

TOURISTS IN BOSNIA DELIGHT BUSINESS, POLARIZE LOCALS

SARAJEVO: Abdullah Al-Sanousi enjoys the breeze in the lush resort outside Sarajevo where his family bought a flat to escape the summer heat at home in Kuwait, one of thousands of new Gulf buyers whose investment has polarized local opinion. They discovered mountainous Bosnia, where half the population is Muslim, after the Arab Spring which destabilized many traditional holiday destinations such as Libya, Tunisia and Egypt. The trend has picked up with more direct flights, new resorts and the end of visa restrictions.

Estate agents and local businesses have welcomed the economic boost. But in a secular country where many Muslims drink alcohol and wear European-style clothing, the arrival of a Saudi-built mall where no alcohol is sold and the sight of burqas and traditional Arab robes is worrying for some. "People from the Middle East come here because of the nature and good weather, and very cheap prices for property and other goods," said 28-year old Sanousi, who works in the media industry in Kuwait.

"Many Muslims feel it's a good place for them, they feel they are with their people, they feel comfortable here," he said in the gated resort that is inhabited mostly by Gulf visitors. It was built by a Kuwaiti investor and opened last year.

Continued on Page 13

TEHRAN: Iran released images of its first domestically built long-range missile defense system yesterday, a project started when the country was under international sanctions. Images on multiple state news agencies showed President Hassan Rouhani and Minister of Defense Hossein Dehghan standing in front of the new Bavar 373 missile defense system. The system was designed to intercept cruise missiles, drones, combat aircraft and ballistic missiles, according to earlier statements by Dehghan.

The project was launched as an alternative to the Russian S-300 system, the delivery of which was suspended in 2010 due to sanctions imposed over Iran's nuclear program. "We did not intend to make an Iranian version of the S-300 - we wanted to build an Iranian system, and we built it," Dehghan told the IRNA news agency over the weekend. In an earlier speech at Friday prayers, he said: "Our missile power is at such a level that we are able to destroy all our targets at any operational range."

Continued on Page 13



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (right) and Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan stand next to the new Bavar 373 missile defense system yesterday. — AFP

SCARE IN SINGAPORE AS PM FAINTS

SINGAPORE: Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong caused a scare when he fainted briefly while delivering a long televised speech yesterday, but he resumed speaking after resting. The 64-year-old cancer survivor, son of the city-state's late founding leader Lee Kuan Yew, suddenly stopped speaking more than two hours into his speech and had to be helped off the stage. When he returned about an hour and 20 minutes later, the crowd in the packed auditorium gave him a standing ovation and thousands of well-wishers expressed relief on social media.

Aides blamed fatigue and dehydration and ruled out a stroke. "Thank you for waiting for me. I gave everybody a scare," said Lee, who has been in power since 2004. He said he fainted during the speech, part of celebrations linked to Singapore's 51st anniversary as a republic on Aug 9. "I think that's what happened. I've never had so many doctors

look at me all at once, they think I'm all right. But anyway I'm going to have a full checkup after this."

Neighboring Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak posted on Twitter: "Heard that you're not feeling well. I hope you're all right. Get well soon." Lee had been on his feet for more than two hours when he stunned the audience as he slouched over the lectern before cameras cut away to his listeners during a live broadcast. The audience sat in shock but broke into applause when Lee was being helped off the stage.

An official statement said Lee was affected by prolonged standing, heat and dehydration. "His heart is fine and he did not have a stroke," the statement added. Lee underwent surgery for prostate cancer last year and has received the all-clear from doctors. He survived a bout of lymphoma, a form of cancer, in 1992. Yesterday's incident was the second health

scare to hit the government since Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat collapsed from a stroke during a cabinet meeting in May.

After resuming his speech, Lee underscored the importance of an orderly leadership succession. He led the ruling People's Action Party, which has governed Singapore since it became independent from Malaysia in 1965, to a new five year term last year and has indicated he would hand over power by the time he reaches 70. "Most of the core team are in place," he said. "Heng Swee Keat gave us a bad scare, worse than what I gave you just now. Much worse," he said.

Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen, a medical doctor who was among those who helped Lee off the stage, said on Facebook that the prime minister had a "fainting spell". "Not serious, similar to what soldiers get from standing on the parade square too long," he said. — AFP

In Brief

AMRI DIWAN MINISTER RECEIVES AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received separately Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexi Solomatini and Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulhamid Abdawai. The Minister also received Uzbek Ambassador to Kuwait Bakhromjon Alov. During the meetings which took place yesterday, they discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interests. —KUNA



ARMY HAILS TIES WITH ALGERIA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Army Chief of Staff General Mohammad Khaled AL-Khudher praised yesterday the strong relations between Kuwait and Algeria, affirming keenness by the two sides to boost these close ties. The remarks were made during a meeting between Khudher and Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulhamid Abdawai yesterday, Kuwait's Army Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a statement. The two sides also delved into issues of common concern. —KUNA



TEMPORARY SLAUGHTERHOUSES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality has erected 14 temporary slaughterhouses in all state governorates as part of its preparations for the upcoming Eid Al-Adha. The municipality is exerting all possible efforts to facilitate the slaughtering process and decrease pressure on the central slaughterhouses in the governorates by establishing temporary slaughterhouses in the co-operative societies in the residential areas, Deputy Director of Ahmadi and Hawalli Municipality Fahad Al-Otaibi said in a press release. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: File photo shows public buses parked at the bus depot in Sharq, Kuwait City behind Al-Awadhi Tower. —Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

MINISTRY CALLS ON HAJJ ORGANIZERS TO PROVIDE E-BRACELETS FOR PILGRIMS

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DUNIYA DEKHO
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Tour price is in USD, for an adult on Twin sharing room, Includes hotel accommodation, sightseeing, transfers, professional tour manager service and meals as per itinerary. The cost is exclusive of airfare, tips, travel insurance and visas, unless specified. High season surcharge (if any) per adult / child is to be paid extra. Rates are per person and only applicable for above packages. Please refer to our brochure/website for complete details and Terms and Condition. This offer is a part of Cox & Kings Promotional and is subject to change / review at any time at the sole discretion of the management. *Conditions apply.



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Undersecretary Farid Ammadi visits SebaMed's booth at the Hajj Raising Awareness campaign. —Photos by Abdellatif Sharaa

By Abdellatif Sharaa and agencies

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs called yesterday on all Hajj organizers to provide an electronic-bracelets to all pilgrims for the upcoming Hajj season. The ministry's Undersecretary Farid Ammadi made the call, in a statement on the sideline of a Hajj Raising Awareness campaign to members and administrators, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Ammadi added that the goal of providing such bracelets was to ensure safety of all pilgrims and maintain contact with them at all times in case of emergency during Hajj rituals. The Undersecretary added that the electronic bracelet is basically an electronic watch connected via satellite to determine the location of those wearing them, in case of rushing times during the Hajj season.

Ammadi noted that Hajj organizers are free to choose which type of electronic bracelets they provide to their customers, however the bracelets must meet the ministry's specified technical requirements, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. The official said the ministry's decision matches the Saudi's similar move which imposed on all Hajj organizers to abide by, and for the same reasons mentioned previously.

Joint efforts

Meanwhile, Ammadi expressed appreciation for the joint efforts between the Awqaf and health ministries, thanking the Ministry of



Health for organizing the campaign. "Touring the booths provides very good information and tips, particularly for pilgrims, in preparation for this ritual," he said. "Such efforts are appreciated, as we witnessed all the different activities from which pilgrims will gain knowledge on how to act and safeguard their health there."

He also thanked the Central Blood Bank which made it possible for employees to donate blood. "This reflects the keenness of people in Kuwait on giving, because the one who donates blood is like the one who donates money, and will be rewarded by Almighty Allah," he indicated.

Ammadi said that the number of hajj organizing campaigns this year is 48. He added that the number of Kuwaiti pilgrims this year is 6,400 as requested by Saudi Arabia, as the expansion work on the holy mosque is still ongoing.



Legalese

WRITING A CONTRACT

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Starting a business is not easy work but can be extremely rewarding. It is hard work because so many decisions are to be made at the beginning, from choosing a location, coming up with branding, making the necessary financial choices and of course the legal steps to be taken.

Kuwait was one of the toughest places in the region for a small and medium enterprise (SMEs) to start because of the complicated laws that were in place for obtaining a commercial license. Yet we have seen Kuwaiti SMEs excel in the past 10 years, locally and internationally, in different sectors, like Talabat in the tech sector, Pick for delicious healthier food options in the food and beverage sector, Khaleesjueq in media and many more that we as young Kuwaitis are very proud of. But how did they do it?

I am sure there is no right or wrong answer to this question, and although I have been fortunate enough to take courses from Ivy League universities on how to start an entrepreneurship, I am no expert, so I will refrain from giving any business advice. But as a lawyer and business owner myself, I can tell you that it is very important to take all the right legal steps at the beginning. In today's article, I am going to answer questions about the new business platforms available and Legal Contracts 101.

New laws

Question: I have heard there are new business laws in Kuwait which can allow you to obtain a commercial license in one day. Is this true?

Fajer: Kuwait has fairly new business laws. The Kuwait companies law was promulgated a few years back and we as lawyers are still finding out the consequences of the new laws. I think you are referring to the new Kuwait Business Center in Kuwait (www.kbc.gov.kw). It is a new initiative by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry aimed at obtaining a commercial license easier. It will definitely take more than one day, but now you can finalize all the paperwork with one visit to one center instead of multiple visits to different government entities. Their website is user friendly with information a new business owner might need. They have even published all the laws and regulations that might be of interest in Arabic and English. Check them out.

Copy and paste

Question: I am just starting and I cannot afford legal services. Can I draft my own contracts by copy pasting from free contracts available online?

Fajer: No. I highly do not advise on the above. I see my clients do it all the time though and then regret it. Contracts might seem simple but they aren't, and one sentence or one word can make a huge difference. Also, what is available online for free is usually not for Kuwaiti law, so I advise you contact a lawyer. I understand that legal advice might be expensive at times, but I am sure a lot of lawyers, like myself, provide advice at discounted rates for SMEs or provide packages for those just starting.

Even though it's important to contact a lawyer, I also advise those starting in a business to understand a few contract basics before starting out. Here are a few explanations that I like to call Contracts 101 and discuss with my clients that are about to start a business:

1. Parties: Always double check that the person representing the party/ parties you are about to sign with has the right to legally sign.

2. Preamble: A preamble is a short summary usually found at the beginning of the contract. Its purpose is to explain why the contract is being drafted and signed. Make sure that the preamble is clear on the intentions of all parties involved.

3. Boilerplates: Boilerplates are standardized clauses found in most contracts and are often agreed to without negotiation. Here are the main ones that I think each business owner should understand:

- Cost and attorney fees: Who will pay any additional legal fees should there be any?

- Arbitration: It is a form of resolution for disputes outside of the local courts. In other words, if the parties involved get in an argument regarding the agreement, a third party of their choice can resolve the issue without going to court.

- Choice of law and jurisdiction: This is important to Kuwaiti companies that are signing contracts with parties outside of Kuwait. When a dispute occurs with regards to the contract, where would you want the dispute resolved? Or according to what law?

- Method of payment: Although it is always good to be very clear, you don't want to write unnecessary information. With that said, payment obligations by one party to another need to be specific, as in how are the payments going to be made and when? Bank transfer? Cheque? When the shipment is delivered? Two days after receipt of an email? And so on.

- Signature: Usually there is a place for the parties to sign right at the end of the contract, but I suggest that you get all parties involved to sign every page of the contract.

As I said, I am very proud of all the SMEs in Kuwait and what they have given back to this country and its economy, and therefore would love to assist any young entrepreneurs.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

INTERPOL CONTACTED ABOUT MP DASHTI

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER TOURS SHAAB

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The public prosecution placed the name of MP Abdelhameed Dashti on the wanted list through the Interpol, to be arrested and handed to Kuwait. Sources said the verdict against Dashti must be implemented even if it was of first instance. The criminal court sentenced Dashti in absentia to 14 years and six months for insulting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and calling for joining Hezbollah.



MP Abdelhameed Dashti

Shaab tour
Minister of Public Works and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omar, Assistant Undersecretary Mohammad bin Nikhi and MP Kamel Al-Awadhi toured Shaab to check on the needs of citizens yesterday morning. He said the ministry is interested in developing and renewing the infrastructure of various areas in the state. Nikhi said the

ministry has an ambitious plan for total maintenance for all roads, adding the plan needs a much bigger budget than allocated by the finance ministry. He said

citizens stressed that the Shaab co-op parking lot needs development along with other concerns.

Fishermen's concerns

The issue of closing Doha port for Kuwaiti fishing boats is still irking fishermen, but Chairman of the Kuwait Fishermen Union Thaher Al-Suwayan said the union continuously cooperates with the coastguard and related government authorities, and appreciated efforts of interior ministry leaders headed by Assistant Undersecretary Maj Gen Zuhair Al-Nasrallah.

Suwayan said the union discussed with coastguard the issue of the Um Al-Maradem outlet last week in its first meeting held in the presence of Nasrallah, Director General of the Coastguard Brig Mubarak Al-Ameeri and fishermen board members. The meeting aimed at resolving some of the negative aspects during the

entry and exit of Kuwaiti boats to shrimp in international waters from Um Al-Maradem center.

He said that the meeting discussed some difficulties such as the long distance for boats from Shamlan Marina and the long wait because the center can accommodate three boats only, and this wastes time and increases cost. He said fishermen must also carry their passports so they can get the exit and entry stamps, and this is the major problem since the start of the shrimping season, especially for fishermen who have temporary residency permits (article 14), which means the residency will be cancelled as soon they leave and they will not be allowed to reenter the country. Suwayan said Nasrallah promised to resolve the problem in cooperation with concerned authorities and to find an alternative place other than Um Al-Maradem for boats of Shamlan Marina.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with commander of the US Central Command General Joseph L Votel. —KUNA

DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS US COMMANDER

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah met with commander of the US Central Command General Joseph L Votel yesterday. A statement by Ministry of Defense noted Sheikh

Khaled Al-Jarrah has received General Joseph and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country, where they stressed the depth of ties between both nations, as they seek to enhance and develop

it. The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khudher, Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah and other ranking military officers. —KUNA

KD 1.71 MILLION SPENT ON BIOFUEL PROJECT: KNPC

KUWAIT: CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Mohammed Ghazi Al-Mutairi announced yesterday that a collective of KD 1.71 million has been spent on a biofuel project, which was locally and internationally financed. In an interview with Al-Rai published yesterday, Mutairi said that funding was possible through loans from local banks which is given to them over periods of time.



CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Mohammed Ghazi Al-Mutairi

KNPC has received three payments so far reaching 339 million dinars, with a remainder 861 million dinars which they will receive in divided payments until August of 2017. KNPC stated that regarding international funding, it has reached the final stage in negotiations with agencies in Korea, Japan, Britain, Holland, and Italy in which 20 international banks stepped forth and agreed to finance the portion secured to support the agencies' global efforts.

KNPC's negotiation team is currently assessing which banks to do business with

has assigned different groups to perform different tasks and said that the project is to be completed in the second half of 2018. He clarified that the number of workers involved in this project reached 26,000 employees and sometimes it requires 40,000 workers. Mutairi said that they signed a contract with the Spanish company, Tecnicas Reunidas, that is worth 433 million dinars in which the project should be completed in 42 months. He also said that they have started digging and getting the site ready in Mina Ahmadi where the number of employees working on the project will reach 4,500 employees.

Mutairi said there are plans to build 100 gas stations and so far 19 have been built. The project will be completed in 2017. The official made sure to clarify that this project with the help of Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company (KAFCO), is working to make sure they adhere to the set rules and regulations. —KUNA

MINISTRY PROBES MODIFICATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Education Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for General Education Affairs Fatma Al-Kandari announced yesterday the formation of a team to look into the possibility of modifying the secondary school system and the differentiation between the existing accumulative system and others.

The team will start working on September 19 to discuss either to stay with the two-semester GPA system or adopt another, Kandari said. This will be determined by academics from Kuwait University and the College of Basic Education in addition to specialists in the educational field, she added.

Meanwhile, Kandari added that linguistics laboratories have been activated in the elementary level due to the importance of communicating between the teacher and the children. Using technology has solved a lot of problems, particularly those pertinent to students' record at the school after it was done manually which was time-consuming, she said. —KUNA

SEALING WAX TO PREVENT TENDER MONOPOLY: MINISTRY

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water said that companies must seal their tender envelopes with red wax to avoid possible ploys in which companies cooperate with each other to monopolize tenders among themselves. Sources said this move is to avoid corruption throughout the entire tendering process, from the awarding to the execution of the contract. The sources stressed that the new rules can avert any weakness in the supervision conditions and bring them down to a minimum.

Excess food

Social Affairs and Labor Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Hassan Kazim said the ministry is planning to declare 14 foundations and NGOs. He said the ministry has applications to declare four NGOs and 10 foundations, and are being studied according to the rules in effect with regards to declaring foundations and NGOs. He said that by declaring four new NGOs, their number will reach 28, and declaring 10 new foundations will take them to 97.

Kazim said the social development sector plans to implement the idea of collecting excess food at wedding halls. He said studies are being made to select a hall in each governorate to implement this idea, and set up a large refrigerator in each governorate to store the excess food in it to try the idea, then expand it to the rest of the halls.

MOTORIST HURT IN KING FAHD ROAD ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A vehicle flipped over several times on King Fahd Road and its driver was trapped and sustained several injuries. The car had to be cut open to get the driver out, who was taken to Adan Hospital by paramedics.



KUWAIT: A vehicle pictured following an accident reported at King Fahd Road.

Fires reported

Fire broke out in a Mahboula building, prompting Mangaf fire center to respond backed by Fahaeel center. The fire was in the air conditioning system on the second floor. The building was evacuated and the fire was put out within 30 minutes. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a car caught fire in Rumaithiya, and south Salmiya fire center responded and put out the fire in minutes. No injuries were reported. Separately, a house caught fire in Taima, and occupational Jahra center responded, backed by Jahra center. Residents were evacuated and the fire was put out in five minutes. Also, a Bayan house saw a limited fire, so it was evacuated and the fire was kept from spreading and put out. In the meantime, fire broke out in a car in Abdullah Al-Mubarak, prompting Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh center to respond. The fire was in the front side of the vehicle and was cordoned off to prevent explosions. The fire was put out in 15 minutes. In another incident, fire broke out in a residential building in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on the fourth floor. The building was evacuated and ventilated to get toxic gas out. The fire was on the emergency staircase where debris was kept along with flammable material. Two firemen were injured and suffered heat exhaustion, and were taken to hospital. The fire was put out.

Domestic help regulations

Acting Director of the Interior Ministry's Residency Affairs Department Brig Abdallah Al-Hajiri said the domestic help law (number 68/2015) and its executive list aims at remedying the legislative shortage and regulate the relationship between authorities concerned with domestic help, which include the Interior Ministry, sponsor and the domestic helper. The law deals with some of the negative aspects found in the old law in a way that guarantees justice and safeguard the rights of all parties involved, he said. Brig Hajiri said that it is necessary for the sponsor to come to the department when he is summoned by an official letter by the department's inspectors, adding that if it was not possible to find the sponsor's address, the letter will be handed to the police station in the area of the sponsor's residence. He said the department then attempts to find satisfactory solutions for all parties, and that will be put into a contract attached to the domestic helper's file. If it was not possible to solve the dispute, then the case will be sent to the concerned court to decide on the matter. Hajiri said it is important that the sponsor comes to the domestic help department as soon as he is summoned to protect his rights and avoid legal procedures.

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SUMMER CULTURAL FESTIVAL CONCLUDES WITH CONCERTS

SOUTH KOREAN ORCHESTRA PERFORMED AT ABDULHUSSAIN ABDULREDHA THEATER



KUWAIT: South Korea's Orchestra 'hope and joy' perform at Abdullhussain Abdulredha Theater Saturday evening. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: The 11th Summer Cultural Festival, organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), came to a close late Saturday. The event concluded by showcasing South Korea's Orchestra 'hope and joy' performed at Abdullhussain Abdulredha Theater in Salmiya.

The festival reflected NCCAL's keenness on helping the local audience get acquainted with cultures of other countries, NCCAL's Assistant Secretary General Bader told reporters on the sidelines of the event. The orchestra troupe renowned for solos, presented varied recitals, theatrical performances and operettas including a Kuwaiti folklore's one, he said. He noted that the festival is a "mini panorama" which included a variety of activities and events like concerts, theatrical and cinematic performances, workshops and symposia. He stressed that the council would continue organizing many events in the upcoming period that are part of the celebrations of 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016.' He said the council will also organize the festival of 'theatrical nights' next September, Kuwait international book fair slated for November and the festival of Kuwait's local theater in December.

Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of NCCAL Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Sabah inaugurated the 11th festival on August 8. It included more than 27 cultural, artistic and literary activities, training courses and workshops, in addition to a galaxy of academics, writers and specialists. The event contained also several exhibitions, concerts and theatrical performances. - KUNA





(From left) Talal Al-Rumaidhi, the General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association, Mohammad Al-Asousi, the Acting Secretary General of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the moderator of the evening, poet Mohammad Humoud Al-Bughaili.



(From left) Talal Al-Rumaidhi, the Secretary General of Kuwait Writers Association, Emirati Poet Abdullah Al-Hadiyah Al-Shehi, Mohammad Al-Asousi, the Acting Secretary General of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), Omani Poet Hisham Al-Saghri and Kuwaiti Poet Mishaal Al-Harbi.

GLITTERING EVENING OF POETRY AT SUAD AL-SABAH THEATRE

THREE GULF POETS SHARE WORKS AT KUWAIT WRITERS ASSOCIATION

By Bader Abu Raghabah A-Otaibi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Writers Association, in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), organized an evening of Arabic poetry 'Omssiyah' on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, at Suad Al-Sabah theatre Auditorium in Al-Odailiyah area. It was held on the occasion of selecting Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture for this year which is adopted by Islamic, Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (ISESCO) program of Islamic Cultural Capitals. The poetry night 'Omssiyah', which was held at Kuwait Writers Association's premises, began at 7:00 pm and went on for over one hour. It was divided into two sessions.

In the beginning, well-known Kuwaiti poet and novelist Mohammad Humoud Al-Bughaili, who moderated the Omssiyah, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience before he introduces the poets to audience.

The three invited poets were Abdullah Al-Hadiyah Al-Shehi, who came from the UAE, Hisham Al-Saghri from the Sultanate of Oman and the Kuwaiti poet Mishaal Al-Harbi. They recited some of their own works respectively and devoted more than one hour of the 11th Summer Cultural Festival to fruitful exchange of thoughts and poetry through these two reading sessions.

Collections

The first poet to recite poems in the first session was veteran Emirati poet Abdullah Al-Hadiyah Al-Shehi. He read out from his collections of poems such as 'The Seeker of Aram', 'This is a Secret of my Problem', and 'They Lost Me', which all relate to the themes of history, traditions and the current Arab nation's situation. In fact, memory also was a dominant topic in his poems. One of his finest poems that received massive appreciation was 'Raiyanat Aloud' and charged the atmosphere in the auditorium.

Abdullah Al-Hadiyah Al-Shehi was born in 1962. He is one of the most eminent Emirati poets, columnist and radio broadcaster. He writes in both Nabati (local poetry) and Fasseeh (standard Arabic poetry), therefore, his poems are considered among the most powerful classics in modern Arabic literature. He has a degree in Arabic language. His poems have been published in various Arabic literary journals and local Emirati newspapers. He has three collections of poems to his credit, namely: 'To What Time', 'Where Are You' and 'The Seeker of Aram'.

Latest poems

The second poet of that session was promised Omani poet Hisham Al-Saghri, he recited some of his latest poems including



KUWAIT: Emirati Poet Abdullah Al-Hadiyah Al-Shehi recites one of his poems.

'The Mirror of Heavens', 'No Border for Love' and 'Breath of my Wine'. His poems dealt with patriotism, empowering the downtrodden and natural beauty. His voice was melodious and loaded with deep emotions at that night which created an atmosphere peace and calmness in the auditorium.

Despite the fact that he has not yet published a full-length poetry collection to his credit, Saghri is a distinguished Omani poet who has written numerous poems which have appeared in several Arabic literary magazines and local Omani newspapers. He got the fourth place in the fifth season (2013) of the classical Arabic poetry competition Prince of Poets, the annual cultural and



Omani Poet Hisham Al-Saghri recites a poem.

reality television competition for Arabic poetry which was launched in 2007 by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Selected works

The third and last poet to recite poems in the session was noted Kuwaiti poet Mishaal Al-Harbi, who read out some of his selected poems like 'Nonplus', 'Or the Flood', 'The Journey of Loss', 'From the Gulf to the Gulf' and 'The Glass of Passion', which mostly talked about love, beauty as well as aesthetics.


Mishaal Al-Harbi is a celebrated Kuwait poet who was featured



Kuwaiti Poet Mishaal Al-Harbi recites a poem.

in the second season's episodes of the prestigious competition show (2008) Prince of Poets on the United Arab Emirates television network, Abu Dhabi TV, the satellite channel which is currently dedicated and promoted the importance of classical Arabic poetry and its value among the young poets in the Arab world.

Finally, the certificate of participation (an award plaque) was distributed to all participants by Mohammad Al-Asousi, the Acting General Secretary of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and Talal Al-Rumaidhi, the General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association who were the chief guests and they proposed the vote of thanks to the audience, poets and lovers of poetry.



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Crime

Report

MAN STABS WIFE'S LOVER

KUWAIT: A man called police and said that he stabbed someone who escaped leaving his clothes behind, after catching his wife with him. The man went home to take rest, but found someone naked with his wife. He could not control himself and pulled a knife and stabbed him three times in the chest, shoulder and side, but he escaped, with the woman behind him out of fear of being stabbed. The husband, who did not have any evidence after the two escaped except for the lover's clothes and other belongings, called police and told them what happened and confessed to stabbing the naked man. Policemen went to the house, gathered the scattered belongings and examined bloodstains on the knife. They then enquired about him at various hospitals and found him at Adan Hospital, and he was placed under heavy guard until he recovers. The husband was charged with attempted murder.

Domestic assault

Detectives are looking for a citizen who beat his wife badly in their Qusoor residence due to domestic differences. The injured citizen went to Adan police station and told them about what happened and submitted a medical report stating her injuries. The wife also lodged a battery complaint, and detectives were asked to arrest the man.

Body found

A foul odor led to the discovery of a dead man who died in his home, as investigations are underway to determine the cause of death. Residents of a building in Hawally told police that a bad smell was coming out of an Egyptian man's apartment, so police, fire and forensics men went to the flat and broke in, where they found the decomposing body, which was recovered by the coroner.

Scam

With the promise of love and marriage, a citizen walked away with KD 3,000 from a citizen and disappeared. The citizen met the man who gained her confidence and promised to marry her, so when he asked her for money to pay his debts, she did not hesitate and borrowed KD 3,000 and gave it to him. When he got what he wanted, he was nowhere to be found. The citizen, who lost hope in locating him, went to Fintas police station and told them what happened and demanded her money back. Investigations are underway.

Dual citizenship

At the request of Saudi authorities to arrest one of its citizens who is wanted on felony cases, residency detectives discovered that the 'Saudi' is a 38-year-old Kuwaiti with dual citizenship. The suspect took advantage of the two citizenships to get in and out of the two countries, escaping from the judicial orders against him. The arrest was made after a hot pursuit, and he had drugs ready for sale.

Brewery busted

Farwaniya police raided a liquor brewery run by four Indians in Ardiya. An undercover source tipped police about the four, so detectives took over the case and caught the four red-handed with a large number of drums ready. The suspects and material were sent to concerned authorities.

Suicide

A Nepalese man hanged himself to death inside his Mahboula residence, and his body was recovered by the coroner. The Interior Ministry received a call from an Asian saying his roommate had hanged himself on the stairs. Police and forensics men went to the scene and handed the body to the coroner. Investigations are underway. — Al-Rai

News

In brief

Govt worried about payroll increase

KUWAIT: The public sector's payroll is expected to reach KD 13 billion in the next three years, making up 70 percent of this year's state budget of KD 19 billion, Al-Rai reported yesterday. Last year's payroll reached KD 6.2 billion. A comparison shows that salaries of ministries' employees jumped by six folds in the past 24 years. The government is growing concerned regarding the continued growth in the public sector's payroll, especially in light of the fact that the state's budget has entered actual deficit, sources said. — Al-Rai

New passports

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry plans to set a time limit for issuing the electronic Kuwaiti passport, after that an announcement will be made to end dealing with the current passport. Then, a 'block' will be placed on citizens who fail to renew their passports, and their civil IDs will be canceled as well. This measure will be taken to 'force' citizens to apply for the new passport, as their DNA samples will be taken according to the DNA profiling law issued earlier this year, said Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah, the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs. — Al-Rai

Fugitive's escape

KUWAIT: Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi issued a warrant to arrest a suspect who fled from the Palace of Justice while being under questioning, as well as his lawyer who assisted his escape. The suspect and his lawyer went out of the investigator's office for a break, while he was being questioned on charges of forcing a person to sign official documents. The Deputy Attorney General then discovered that the two disappeared. The lawyer was then contacted to report to the court, but he refused and said that he will not allow his client to come to court as well, according to sources. — Al-Qabas

Budget deficit

KUWAIT: Kuwait needs KD 7 billion to finance the 2016/2017 budget deficit, according to the initial strategy for the management of the public debt. The deficit will be funded as follows: KD 1 billion through traditional and Islamic bonds (sukuk) offered by banks, KD 2.3 billion through traditional international debt instruments, KD 600 million through Islamic debt instruments (sukuk) and KD 1.2 billion to be withdrawn from the general reserve. — Al-Qabas



Al-Jarida

أهـر شـوان

Al-Qabas

Al-Qabas

YOUTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

The violence phenomenon, especially among youth, is not a new one, and will not be the last for social, legal and also educational reasons. But generalizing it as a global phenomenon in order to justify it is not a good remedy - rather it is a form of escaping from it and dealing with this behavioral phenomenon that has been sweeping the society for years.

The Ministry of Youth replied to an investigative report in Al-Qabas about violence (July 1, 2016) that "it has started to form a team to study the violence phenomenon, and that there are 29 urgent recommendations and 13 long term ones, and 81 percent of those recommendations have been achieved". The Ministry of Youth is concerned with supporting youth initiatives and adopting them, and also face the violence phenomenon or any negative social phenomenon and confront them, especially since the domestic arena is witnessing violent youth behaviors - be it reckless driving, and violating the freedom of others with knives and breaking the law by various age groups. The reaction of the ministry of youth is important, and studying this phenomenon by specialists will help find solutions, but it is not correct for the ministry to start from zero, because the violence phenomenon is an international one, especially if we consider Kuwait's geographical size and population compared with other countries, it is considered a theater of crime and violence. Many studies by academics in the social field preceded the establishment of the ministry. There are also scientific studies that diagnosed the reasons and motives of violence and its sources. The studies contained figures and data before this phenomenon got inflated and reached to the current point in schools, streets and homes too.

I wrote earlier about the team the ministry of youth used and among them are non-specialists in the social field, but the problem is not in forming a team, rather it is in the presence of specialized official bodies that have achievements and studies the ministry of youth is supposed to benefit from. Kuwait University, particularly the social and psychology departments, are considered some of the bodies that may be an easy reference and help to the ministry, in addition to the social development office, which is operating with a budget from the state with goals that are not different from those of the ministry of youth. This office was established after the liberation in 1992. The office has workshops, studies and developmental research that aim at creating a partnership in building the youth with state institutions.

It is supposed the ministry of youth should benefit from achievements of youth and the work of the social development office and avoid duality in work and maybe merge. Because it is not right for the government to pay for two official bodies to work for the same goals, especially since there is a need to rationalize spending on one hand, and find solutions for the violence phenomenon in harmony with experienced bodies on the other, so that the youth ministry can begin from where other bodies have reached.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

THE LUCKY CABINET!

Al-Qabas

By Dr Mohammad Al-Abdeljader

When the Cabinet thinks about the elections as a daily worry, it supposedly acts like an elected cabinet, and this is a system not known in the country. The current Cabinet, regrettably, acts as if it is a candidate by its reactions and appeasing the elected Assembly. It opened the doors to treatment abroad and quotas in appointing leaders, and negotiating with the elected Assembly with regards to economic reform issues in the give-and-take method.

The raising of electricity and gasoline prices in ways that do not indicate economic reform and without a study for the repercussions afterwards, particularly on limited income citizens and expat families, with the high cost of living, high rents and pressure on services, particularly those linked to transport and electric power. Despite all reports from the Audit Bureau about squandering and spending, which should be controlled to reduce the deficit, the government preferred solutions that are easy to implement but have bitter results.

The current government is not a totally elected one, and did not present an election platform to be popularly

The current Cabinet faced many tests and did not handle them successfully except security and foreign affairs.

held accountable, but it is operating according to what is set for it according to the constitution and law. Some of the unelected ministers in the current Cabinet behave as if their attention is on the results of the next elections, although they did not come through the ballot box. Some of them who never dreamt to become ministers and came by luck, are thinking to remain as long as possible through procrastinating on problems and expanding violations.

The current Cabinet faced many tests and did not handle them successfully except security and foreign affairs. As for evaluating the rest of the issues, the age of the current Cabinet gets longer in waiting for the next elections, and continues despite all criticism, as if we are facing a government that presented a studied program, based on which it is evaluated, but reality is something else.

The current government did not benefit from the circumstances that were given to it and were not available for others. How lucky this Cabinet is!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's General Traffic Department launched a blood donation drive yesterday in cooperation with the Health Ministry's Central Blood Bank. Top department officials led by Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna, Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs, as well as several traffic policemen and department employees participated in the campaign, the Interior Ministry announced in a statement.



Foreign fighters take aim at IS while they can

SYRIAN REFUGEES FIND SUPPORT IN EACH OTHER IN UK



VIRGINIA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives to speak at a campaign rally in Fredericksburg. — AP

TRUMP CAMPAIGN DOUBLES SPENDING

TRADITIONAL AD MEDIUMS BEING SIDELINED BY ONLINE ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's campaign expenses more than doubled last month, even as the Republican presidential nominee held his payroll to about 70 employees, aired no television advertisements and undertook no significant operational build-out across the country. Instead, about half of the campaign's \$18.5 million in spending was vacuumed up by Giles-Parscale, a web design and marketing firm new to national politics, Federal Election Commission filings show. It's a crossover vendor from Trump's real estate organization.

The campaign paid Giles-Parscale \$8.4 million in July, about twice what the San Antonio firm had collected from it over the course of the preceding year. Brad Parscale, the president, is the campaign's director of digital marketing. The big expense came as Trump put a new emphasis on online fundraising, after paying for his primary run mostly out of his own pocket. Millions more went to air travel. The campaign paid about \$2 million for private jets other than Trump's own TAG Air, which also collected \$500,000. Some Trump's consultants are also well-paid.

Chess Bedsole, the campaign's Alabama state director, was paid \$64,000 last month for field consulting. His last campaign payment was for \$15,000 in December. Yet the campaign's payroll remained thin, and there did not appear to be much new in the way of office leases across the country, including in Ohio and other crucial states. Trump's ex-campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, said this month that the campaign had hired dozens more people, including expanding its team to directors in all 50 states. He said they were all on payroll as of Aug 1, meaning they won't show up in campaign finance reports until Sept 20.

Critically low

Trump has relied heavily on the Republican National Committee for conventional campaign infrastructure. He's boasted of holding the line on his campaign spending. But he's running critically low on time to build an operation that can compete with Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. In addition to being ahead of Trump in polls in pivotal states, Clinton has maintained a staff of about 700 for months, opened up offices across the country and already spent \$67 million on general election ads. This week, she'll spend at least \$10 million more on ads.

Trump made his first ad buy a few days ago, for nearly \$5 million in commercials to air across Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Clinton's campaign spent \$38 million in July, about double the Trump campaign's outlay. She can afford her higher level of spending, the July campaign finance reports show. Her campaign raised \$52 million while his brought in \$37 million for the month, including a \$2 million contribution from Trump himself. The candidates also raise money for their parties, enabling them to ask for contributions far higher than the \$2,700-per-donor limit to the campaigns. Overall in July, Clinton raised \$90 million for her campaign and Democratic partners, while Trump raised \$80 million for the campaign and Republican groups.

Trump did bring aboard some new campaign consultants in July. He paid \$100,000 to Cambridge Analytica, a deep-dive data firm that did business with GOP opponent Ted Cruz. Hedge fund billionaire Robert Mercer, who contributed \$2 million to a pro-

Trump super political action committee in July, is an investor in Cambridge. The Trump filings also show some old ties. Two weeks after the ouster of campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, Trump's campaign cut his firm, Green Monster Consulting, another \$20,000 check. That's about the same amount it had paid him each month while he was running the campaign.

At the time of the latest payment, Lewandowski was already on the payroll of CNN, where he is a political contributor. The campaign paid Trump Organization employee Meredith McIver, who has worked as a Trump ghostwriter over the years. She took credit - and then blame - for writing Melania Trump's speech at the Republican National Convention that included similar lines from Michelle Obama's speech at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Black voters

Meanwhile, Donald Trump says the party of Lincoln must improve its efforts to bring black voters back to the fold and that he wants an inclusive GOP. Trump has been working in recent days to boost his appeal among African-American voters. On Saturday, the Republican presidential nominee assured supporters at a rally in Virginia that he and the GOP are up to the task. "I fully recognize that outreach to the African-American community is an area where the Republican Party must do better, and will do better," Trump said in Fredericksburg, located between Richmond and Washington in the critical battleground state of Virginia.

Trump noted the GOP's ties to Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president and the chief executive who issued the proclamation freeing slaves, and said, "I want our party to be a home of the African-American voter once again." Trump's new minority outreach efforts followed a shake-up in his campaign management in the face of falling poll numbers that quickly prompted noticeable changes to his campaigning tactics. In Fredericksburg, he spoke with the aid of a teleprompter, as he has at rallies all this week, and continued to strike a more inclusive, less caustic tone.

Still, Trump continued to rail against the impact of illegal immigration, claiming that an influx to the state of Virginia was putting "enormous pressure" on local schools and public services. And he blamed "border-crossers" who are "being relocated to the state" for taking jobs away. "The people hurt most by our open border are low-income Hispanic and African-Americans who are competing for jobs and community resources against new arrivals," he said.

Trump once again accused his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, of "bigotry," saying that she took black votes for granted. He delivered the remarks to an overwhelmingly white audience. Earlier Saturday in New York, he met with his new National Hispanic Advisory Council for Trump, which will work to help him to focus his message, as well as provide assistance with the campaign's Hispanic outreach. Polling shows Trump lagging significantly behind Clinton among minority voters, partially due to some of the more critical comments on immigration he has made since entering the race. He has accused Mexico of sending rapists and criminals across the border, and has vowed to deport all of the estimated 11 million people living in the US illegally. — Agencies

MOROCCO KING URGES DIASPORA TO REJECT ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

RABAT: Morocco's king on Saturday appealed for "a united front against extremism" and urged members of the North African country's diaspora, many of them in Europe, to defend a tolerant form of Islam. Mohammed VI called on the five million Moroccans living abroad to "defend peace, harmony and unity in their respective countries of residence." "We strongly condemn the murder of innocents," the King said, adding that the killing in France last month of a priest was "unforgivable."

Europe, and France in particular, has suffered a spate of recent terrorist attacks and European citizens of Moroccan

origin as well as dual nationals have been implicated in a number of assaults in France and Belgium. Preaching a form of tolerant and moderate Islam, Morocco has positioned itself in Africa and the Muslim world as a key voice in the fight against jihadism. The King regularly calls on his citizens to practice an Islam "of peace" but Saturday was the first time he directly addressed the Moroccan diaspora. "Terrorists who kill in the name of Islam...are condemned to eternal hell," he said. "They are exploiting some young Muslims, particularly in Europe, exploiting their ignorance of Arabic and true Islam to relay their messages and false promises," he added. — AFP



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KURDS ADVANCE IN SYRIA CITY AFTER RUSSIA MEDIATION FAILS

HASAKEH: Kurdish fighters advanced in the flashpoint city of Hasakeh in northeast Syria after a Russian mediation bid failed to halt clashes with pro-regime forces, a monitoring group said yesterday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and a military source said the Kurds seized territory across several neighborhoods in the city's south in violent clashes on Saturday night.

The Britain-based Observatory said Kurds advanced in Zuhur, while a Kurdish

military source told AFP that they pushed forward in Al-Nashwa and Ghweiran. A local journalist working for AFP said he saw members of the pro-government National Defense Forces militia retreating from Al-Nashwa. Regime aircraft flew over the city early yesterday morning, most of which is under Kurdish control, but without carrying out any bombing raids, the Observatory said. In an escalation of Syria's five-year war, regime planes on Wednesday bombarded positions held

by US-backed Kurdish forces in the city fighting the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group.

The unprecedented strikes prompted the US-led coalition to scramble aircraft to protect its special operations forces helping the Kurdish fighters. Fighting between a pro-government militia and Kurdish forces since Wednesday has left at least 43 people dead including 27 civilians, among them 11 children, according to the Observatory. Thousands of civilians have

fled the city. Al-Masdar News, a pro-regime website, said renewed clashes broke out Saturday after the failure of mediation efforts in the neighboring city of Qamishli by a Russian military delegation. It said the government had rejected a Kurdish demand for pro-regime militiamen to withdraw from Hasakeh, instead proposing that both sides disarm. A senior regime source told AFP that Russian efforts at mediation continued yesterday. The regime and Kurdish forces share a

common enemy in IS, but there have been growing tensions between them in Hasakeh. In the northern province of Aleppo, the scene of heavy clashes all month between government forces and rebels allied with jihadists, 28 civilians were among 38 people killed Saturday in strikes by the regime and its Russian allies, the Observatory said. More than 290,000 people have lost their lives since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011, and millions have been forced to flee their

FOREIGN FIGHTERS TAKE AIM AT IS WHILE THEY STILL CAN

TIME TO STRIKE AS JIHADISTS LOSING MORE GROUND

WASHINGTON: Growing numbers of Westerners appear to be trying to join the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq before it's too late, frontline volunteer warriors say. IS group jihadists have suffered a string of setbacks in Iraq and Syria in recent months, including the loss of key towns and facilities surrounding the remaining major strongholds in their self-declared "caliphate"—Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria.

AFP he had seen a sharp uptick in queries from aspiring Western fighters. "People know that the end is near and they are trying to get in while they can," said the US Marine veteran who served in Afghanistan. Park, a Christian, has embedded with the Dwekh Nawsha, an Assyrian Christian militia working with US-backed Kurdish peshmerga forces to protect the towns of Telskuf and nearby Baqufa, around 20 miles

conflict," the report said. Park headed to Iraq largely because he missed combat and wanted to serve. "I don't want to die, but I'd rather be in this position than someone who doesn't have to be," he said.

'Broke and disappointed'

Another volunteer fighter who goes by the nom de guerre "Mike" said he is getting around a dozen messages a day from people who want to join the fight. A year ago, it would have taken him a week to get as many. The uptick in foreigners heading to the Iraq's Kurdish region has put authorities in a bind, with increasing scrutiny of volunteers and the equipment they bring.

"My advice for them would be: don't bother coming down here," the former Norwegian soldier with Kurdish roots said in an email. "You will most likely not be allowed to fight and will leave broke and disappointed." The Kurdish government is under considerable pressure to keep Western volunteers away from the front line, he added. "So they often place them at inactive fronts or in camps, where they are safe and free to post pictures of themselves with gear and weapons on their Facebook page," Mike, 31, said.

Instagram, Facebook and other social media sites are filled with images from volunteers—sometimes showing dead IS fighters, sometimes depicting the monotony of life on the front. Park and Mike have garnered tens of thousands of followers under their Instagram handles, "louis_text" and "peshmerganor," respectively. While most requests come from Americans, Mike said he's received inquiries from Australians, Europeans and even from an Iranian. "I'm guessing people are realizing ISIS is coming to an end and want to be able to tell people back home they have fought them in the battlefield," he added, using an acronym for IS.

Different countries have different rules regarding nationals fighting alongside friendly foreign forces. The United States strongly discourages, but does not prohibit, such actions. "Our ability to provide consular assistance to individuals who are injured or kidnapped, or to the families of individuals who die as a result of taking part in the conflict is extremely limited," the State Department warned. Some 250 private Americans have gone, or tried to go, to Syria and Iraq to fight, the FBI said last year, although it did not differentiate between those fighting the IS group and those joining the jihadists. The agency did not provide more recent numbers. US Customs and Border Patrol said returning fighters, like all travelers, may be subject to extra scrutiny. "CBP does coordinate with other law enforcement agencies to provide the appropriate support as requested," the agency said in a statement. Other countries, such as Australia and Belgium, bar their citizens from fighting with foreign forces, even those perceived as friendly. — AFP



TIKRIT: In this April 3, 2015 file photo, an Iraqi man prays for his slain relative, at the site of a mass grave, believed to contain the bodies of Iraqi soldiers killed by Islamic State group militants when they overran Camp Speicher military base. — AP

Although limited or unreliable public data make it difficult to track numbers, anecdotal evidence suggests aspiring anti-jihadists—many of them military veterans—recognize they may be running out of time to fight IS in a pitched battle as the group loses territory and morphs into a traditional terror group. The volunteers are eager despite being strongly discouraged—and sometimes banned by their home countries—from doing so. With the fight for Mosul expected to begin in the coming months, US-led coalition advisors, warplanes and drones are conducting "shaping operations" that will lay the battle groundwork.

Louis Park, a 26-year-old Texan who returned to Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region for a second stint with local anti-IS forces in June, told

north of Mosul. "I'm getting inquiries from all around the world — 60 or 70 since I've been back," he said in a phone interview from close to the Baqufa frontline. According to a study released last week by the London-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue, of the 300 or so foreign fighters it tracked via social media heading to fight the IS group, more than a third are Americans. The fighters are motivated by various factors, including wanting to make a difference or do something meaningful in their lives, and anger over a perceived inadequate international effort to counter the IS group's barbaric acts. "The primary grievance relates to atrocities being committed against civilians, with many accusing world leaders of turning a blind eye to the ongoing suffering of those caught up in the



ALEPPO: In this Tuesday, Oct 2, 2012 file photo, smoke rises over Saif Al Dawla district. — AP

WHY ALEPPO IS SYRIA'S FIERCEST BATTLEGROUND

ALEPPO: With rebels and government forces each promising to unite the divided city, Aleppo is once again a main battlefield in Syria's devastating civil war. Relentless shelling and airstrikes have killed more than 300 civilians in the city since rebels broke through a government blockade of the opposition-held east on July 31. A photo of five-year-old Omran Daqneesh, who was rescued from the rubble of a missile-struck building, sitting alone in an ambulance, confused and covered in debris and blood, has become the haunting image of the unforgiving struggle.

A shattered historical treasure

Syria's largest city and once its commercial center, Aleppo was a crossroads of civilization for millennia. It has been occupied by the Greeks, Byzantines and multiple Islamic dynasties. As one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, Aleppo's Old City was added in 1986 to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. But the civil war has damaged its landmarks, including the 11th century Umayyad Mosque, which had a minaret collapse during fighting in 2012, the 13th century citadel and the medieval marketplace, where fire damaged more than 500 shops in its narrow, vaulted passageways. Some historic sites have been used as bases for fighters. Aleppo was one of the last cities in Syria to join the uprising against President Bashar Assad's government.

The key to victory

Because of its heritage and its economic potential, it is often said that whoever holds Aleppo wins the war. In fact, rebels hold other pockets around the country, but their defeat in Aleppo would mark a turning

Breaking the siege

Earlier this month, the International Committee for the Red Cross called the battle for Aleppo "one of the most devastating conflicts in modern times." Pro-government forces, supported by overwhelming Russian air power, had managed to encircle rebels and some 300,000 civilians in the city's eastern quarters in July, leading the UN to raise concerns of catastrophic suffering if a protracted siege ensued. But a fierce offensive led by thousands of rebels from outside the city broke the blockade on July 31, and fighting has only intensified since then. Both sides are bombarding their opponents indiscriminately, at a tremendous cost to infrastructure and human life.

The warring parties

The main Kurdish militia, known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, controls several predominantly Kurdish northern neighborhoods. The main insurgent groups in the city are the Nour el-Din Zenki brigade, the ultraconservative Ahrar Al-Sham group and the Al-Qaida-linked Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, formerly known as the Nusra Front. — AP

TURKISH JOURNALIST FEARS BID TO LINK HIM TO COUP

ISTANBUL: Leading Turkish journalist Can Dundar, sentenced to six years for publishing state secrets involving Ankara's Syria operations, says he is planning to stay abroad, fearing new charges intended to link him to an abortive military coup. Dundar, who quit as editor-in-chief of the secularist Cumhuriyet daily, said in a telephone interview a case was being readied against him for "aiding and abetting" a religious movement led by a U.S.-based Muslim cleric that Turkey accuses of masterminding the July 15 coup attempt. Some 340 people were killed in the action that collapsed in less than 24 hours.

Prosecutors were not immediately available for comment. Dundar, who had left the country before the coup in July on holiday, declined to say where he now is. Dundar and Cumhuriyet bureau chief Erdem Gul spent three months in jail during their trial on spy charges for publishing footage purporting to show the state intelligence agency taking weapons into Syria in 2014. They were found guilty of a lesser crime of revealing secrets in May and are free pending appeal. The convictions sparked censure from rights groups and Western governments worried about worsening human rights in Turkey under President Tayyip Erdogan.

"There is a good chance I will be detained and little chance I'll get out because no higher court can protect our rights," said Dundar. "My choice is prison or staying abroad. Under these conditions, I could no longer manage the newspaper." Under a state of emergency imposed after the coup, Turkey has sacked or suspended some 80,000 people in the army, police, judiciary and civil service for suspected links to the preacher Fethullah Gulen.

Gulen, whose followers helped Erdogan in his early years in power by taking up specialist posts in key ministries and security, denies any role in the coup in which rogue troops seized jets and tanks to attack government targets in a spasm of violence that shocked the nation. Following the post-coup shakeup, the government now exerts near-full control over the judiciary, said Dundar, sapping his faith in a fair appeal and trial. Western allies fear the clampdown could stifle dissent and harm stability in the NATO partner that has also been shaken by bomb attacks by Kurdish and Islamic State militants. Over 50 were killed in an apparent suicide bombing in the city of Gaziantep, near the Syrian frontier, on Saturday night.

Turkey says the measures are necessary to expose 75-year-old Gulen's followers whom it describes as a "terrorist parallel structure" that spent four decades infiltrating the state. Turkish authorities are pressing the United States to extradite Gulen, who lives in exile in Pennsylvania, presiding over a global network of schools and businesses.

'Heavy price'

Erdogan said the trucks Cumhuriyet reported on in 2015 carried humanitarian aid to forces battling the Syrian regime and were intercepted in an unauthorized operation by Gulen's followers in the gendarmes in an act of treason. Cumhuriyet's story undermined NATO ally Turkey's standing, Erdogan said and vowed Dundar would "pay a heavy price." The Committee to Protect Journalists last month awarded Dundar its International Press Freedom award, citing Cumhuriyet's coverage of the

alleged weapons smuggling.

Dundar, who is also a well-known filmmaker and author, will continue to pen a column for Cumhuriyet, one of Turkey's oldest newspapers. He stepped down as its editor last week. "I will be prosecuted for helping, with our coverage, the organization accused of the coup," said Dundar, who denies links with Gulen's network. Dundar sees irony in accusations he has helped a religious organization, coming as he does from a secularist political culture that has opposed Islamist movements. "I was the editor of a paper that spent years warning against (Gulen's) organization. The government was its partner and is solely responsible

for the expanse it reached ... but there's an attempt to make us culpable for our crimes," he said.

Erdogan this month apologized for his previous alliance with Gulen, saying he had failed to see his "true face." The post-coup crackdown has extended to the press, with 70 media workers detained. Turkey is now the world's top jailer of journalists, the European Federation of Journalists says. In total, police have detained 40,000 people since July 15. "This massive detention campaign amounts to a witch hunt ... to clean up the opposition," said Dundar. "Publications that refuse to acquiesce to the government are all at risk." — Reuters

ISRAEL HITS HAMAS TARGETS IN GAZA

JERUSALEM: Israel targeted Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip by air and with tank fire yesterday after a rocket fired from the Palestinian enclave crashed into the Israeli city of Sderot. Police said the rocket hit "between two buildings on a road" in Sderot, which is less than four kilometers from Gaza, causing no casualties. Army spokesman Peter Lerner said Israeli forces retaliated by hitting targets of the Palestinian Islamist movement in northern Gaza.

"In response to the rocket attack from the Gaza Strip, the IAF (Israeli air force) and tanks targeted two Hamas posts in the northern Gaza Strip," Lerner said in a statement. Palestinian health and security sources said two people were lightly wounded by the Israeli fire. "One of them is a 20-year-old (young man) who was hit by shrapnel in the face," said Ashraf Al-Qudra, spokesman for the Palestinian health ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza. Security sources in the territory said several targets in northern Gaza were struck by Israeli fire, and that a reservoir in Beit Hanun was destroyed.

Witnesses said a base of Hamas's military wing the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, in nearby Beit Lahya, was also hit. Israeli media said it was the first time downtown Sderot had been hit by a rocket from Gaza since the last war with Palestinian militants in the territory in 2014. On July 2, Israeli air raids hit four sites in Gaza after a rocket struck a building in Sderot. There were no casualties in either incident. — AFP



ALEPPO: Omran, a four-year-old Syrian boy covered in dust and blood, sits in an ambulance after being rescued from the rubble of a building hit by an air strike in the rebel-held Qaterji neighborhood. — AFP

BROTHER OF OMRAN, SYRIAN BOY IN HAUNTING PICTURE, DIES OF WOUNDS

BEIRUT: The older brother of the little Syrian boy who was pictured sitting in an ambulance dazed and covered in blood after an air strike, died Saturday from wounds sustained in the attack on the family's apartment, a monitoring group said. "Ali, aged 10, succumbed to his injuries. He was badly wounded in the same bombardment as Omran on August 17 in Aleppo," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The haunting images of four-year-old Omran, sitting in an ambulance after the attack, his face, arms and legs caked in blood and dust, have reverberated around the world, becoming a symbol for the suffering of children in Syria's brutal five-year conflict. In video footage from the incident, Omran is seen quietly staring into space before raising his arms to touch his bloodied forehead, then looking at his hand and wiping it on the orange seat.

Omran, his siblings and parents were all plucked from the rubble wounded, but

alive, following Wednesday's bombing on the Qaterji neighborhood in rebel-held east Aleppo. The Aleppo Media Centre, a network of activists in the divided northern city, confirmed Ali's death in a video on Saturday. The images of Omran have sparked a global outcry, much like the photo last September of three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi, whose body washed ashore on a Turkish beach as his family tried to reach Europe. More than 290,000 people have been killed since Syria's conflict broke out, including nearly 15,000 children. Omran's home city Aleppo has been divided by government control in the west and opposition fighters in the east since 2012. Regime warplanes, backed by Russia's air force since September 2015, bombard the eastern districts while rebel groups fire rockets into the west. Of the estimated 250,000 people still living in the eastern parts of the city, 100,000 are children, according to the UN's children agency UNICEF. — AFP



ALTOONA: In this Aug 12, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gives a thumbs up as he leaves a campaign rally. — AP

IN NORTH CAROLINA, AUDIENCE IS SHRINKING FOR TRUMP'S MESSAGE

ASHEVILLE, NC: Hillary Clinton "owes the state of North Carolina a very big apology," Donald Trump thundered, condemning the loss of manufacturing jobs due to free-trade deals supported by the Democratic presidential nominee. The attack line drew no more than polite applause at his event last week in Charlotte. In the state that may be the most pivotal to Trump's White House bid, the audience for the Republican's chief economic pitch is shrinking by the day. Textile and furniture manufacturing no longer dominates the state's economy as it did a generation ago. Banking, technology and other industries have driven North Carolina's economic output to grow faster than any state in the past three years.

Voters are flowing into the state at a fire-hose rate - young, educated and many to take high-paying jobs when they arrive. They're coming from everywhere and quickly diluting North Carolina's conservative political underpinnings. "Clinton is winning," said North Carolina Republican pollster Michael Luethy. "Particularly because folks who have moved to the state in the last five years are very different voters. They're persuaded by a different issue set than those have been here a while."

Meet Katie Snyder of Asheville. She moved to the hip mountain oasis two years ago as a new college graduate to take an engineering job waiting for her at Thermo Fisher Scientific, a global laboratory equipment maker that has a freezer division in Asheville. The Ohio native said she tends to support Republicans, but "I don't know what I'm going to do in November." She doesn't fully trust Clinton, and the 2010 health care overhaul enacted under Democratic President Barack Obama has been hard on some of her peers. But she adds: "I don't know if I can see myself voting for Trump."

On the road to the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, the inability of Trump's message on trade to win over voters such as Snyder in North Carolina is a major problem for the Republican nominee. A win here and in neighboring Virginia would open a path for Clinton reach 270 even if Trump captures the traditional powerhouse battlegrounds of Ohio and Florida. "I don't see a path without North Carolina," said Chris Jankowski, a Republican campaign strategist based in Virginia whose work includes North Carolina candidates. In 2008, Obama was the first Democrat to win North Carolina since 1976. While Republican Mitt Romney won the state four years later, political professionals such as Luethy believe the more than 200,000 people that have moved to North Carolina since the 2012 election increase the challenge for Trump.

Clinton leading race

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist



LONDON: Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, center, chats with passengers as he travels on a northbound Victoria line tube train during the launch of London's Night Tube. — AP

LONDON MAYOR KHAN CALLS ON LABOUR TO DITCH LEADER

LONDON: London's Labour mayor Sadiq Khan yesterday urged party members to unseat boss Jeremy Corbyn in the upcoming leadership election, saying he had "failed to win the respect of the British people." Jeremy's personal ratings are the worst of any opposition leader on record and the Labour party is suffering badly as a result, Khan wrote in the Observer, the Sunday version of the centre-left Guardian newspaper. "He has lost the confidence of more than 80 percent of Labour's MPs in parliament and I am afraid we simply cannot afford to go on like this," he added.

Khan is backing Owen Smith in the upcoming party election, voting for which will begin on Monday when ballot papers will be sent out to Labour members. Voting ends on September 21 with the result to be announced three days later during a special congress in Liverpool, north-west England. Veteran leftist Corbyn, 67, stormed to the head of the party last September, securing 59.5 percent of the votes of party

poll found Clinton up 9 points in North Carolina in early August. But it also showed that she's substantially outpacing Trump in the state's economic boom regions. She had more than 50 percent support in the Charlotte area and led Trump by more than 2-to-1 in the Triangle region of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. Trump's attacks on the North American Free Trade Agreement may echo in rural North Carolina, but urban centers have done well in the decades since NAFTA was enacted.

The Charlotte area has nearly doubled in size over the past 25 years, due in part to its transition to a transportation and financial hub. It is home to Bank of America Corp., the nation's second largest bank by assets. The Raleigh-Durham area has doubled in size in the past 15 years, exploding alongside the university region's medical and technology businesses. Even the Asheville area, small by comparison, has grown by 45 percent since 1990 - and faster since 2000. The town now has a population of roughly 500,000, many like Snyder who benefit from free trade. Thermo Fisher Scientific, her employer, has roughly 50,000 employees in 50 countries.

Clinton's statewide advantage among such younger and college educated voters is also helping tighten the race in what were once the more conservative regions that surrounded Asheville in the state's west and Fayetteville in the east. Gia Haynes moved from Atlanta after graduating from college in May to Fayetteville with the hope of landing a job as a scientist for one of the major food processors in the region, such as Smithfield Foods Inc. For her, paying off her \$25,000 student loan is more pressing than global trade. "Trump's down side is he doesn't empathize with people or understand what they are going through," she said.

Jankowski, who has been a leading Virginia legislative race tactician for more than 20 years, said a similar economic transition is helping put Virginia out of Trump's reach. Northern Virginia has evolved in the past generation from a bedroom community for federal employees into a technology hub, especially for military and aerospace design. Obama twice carried Virginia, which hadn't gone with a Democratic nominee for the 11 consecutive previous presidential elections. Apparently confident in her leads in public and private polls alike, Clinton suspended advertising in the state early this month.

"In North Carolina, you're seeing a smaller version of what's happening in Virginia," Jankowski said. Cautiously optimistic, the Clinton campaign's battleground data analyst Michael Halle said new voters give her an advantage in North Carolina, though not to the same degree as in Virginia. But, he added: "North Carolina is moving in that direction, faster than Virginia, in fact." — AP

SYRIAN REFUGEES FIND SUPPORT, COMFORT IN EACH OTHER IN UK

UK STRUGGLES TO RESETTLE MORE THAN 20K SYRIANS

LONDON: A summer rainstorm pounded down on the eaves of Christ the Saviour church hall in London as Fardous Bahboub poured tea and set up the makeshift classroom where she teaches some 25 Syrian refugees how to ask for directions in English, shop for groceries and navigate British norms in making new friends. Bahboub's class is part of a larger Facebook community called "Ahan Wa Sahlan" - Arabic for welcome - one of many small local efforts that have sprung up across Britain to help migrants who have made their way to the country after fleeing civil war in Syria.

"Being a refugee myself, I know how it feels to be away from home and having no option to return," said Bahboub on a recent Thursday. A language teacher in her 30s from Syria, she was studying for a master's degree here when war broke out and prevented her from going home. Now she teaches others as a way of giving back to those who helped her. As the UK struggles to implement its commitment to resettle more than 20,000 Syrians, the government is counting on charities and community groups to help the newcomers adjust to life in Britain. The Home Office has for the first time set up a program to allow local organizations to sponsor refugees and the agency's website directs volunteers to migrant charities that need their help.

While Britain initially resisted international pressure to accept large numbers of refugees, more than 9,000 Syrians have fled for asylum in the UK since 2011. That is a tiny fraction of the 1.1 million Syrians who registered throughout Europe during the same period, including almost 377,000 in Germany alone, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Local groups say they can be incubators for programs, providing a blueprint for transition that will help larger efforts succeed. After all, local communities are fundamental to the success of any resettlement effort, said Maurizio Albahari, author of "Crimes of Peace: Mediterranean Migrations at the World's Deadliest Border," and a social anthropologist at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Xenophobia

"By working to facilitate every aspect of refugee resettlement, local communities quietly but steadily demonstrate to all levels of government that the arrival of refugees is neither unwanted nor impractical, and that xenophobia cannot be taken for granted," Albahari said. One of the groups that is already serving refugees is Citizens UK, which helps them get health care, schooling and housing. Bekele Woyecha, a community organizer and former refugee from Ethiopia, said individuals - not the central government - have taken the lead. "This is a county known for offering sanctuary," Woyecha said. "We want to keep that tradition."

In addition to language classes, Ahan Wa Sahlan hosts social events, such as recent communal meal during Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting. Such occasions are important, because they offer the newcomers a chance to talk about home and speak with others who share similar stories about the war and the treacherous journey they faced to get here. All ages and walks of life are represented in Ahan Wa Sahlan: An elderly painter pulled from the rubble of Aleppo, a shy newlywed couple, and Karam Al-Habbal, who dreams of going to a British university and becoming a pilot. Confident and funny, his English is already so good that he volunteers to help others. He has just turned 18 and gained residency status but will reveal few details of his travels to Britain for fear of endangering others.

"I have a normal life now I've come to a safe country," he said. "My country has been destroyed." At a picnic in London's Regent's Park, in the shadow of the golden dome of London's Central Mosque, Bahboub's group meets once again. This time, bikes and biscuits replace notepads and pens. Bahboub arrived with two decorated cream cakes to celebrate Al-Habbal's birthday and new residency status, and the aspiring pilot rushed to upload photos on Instagram.

Some of the young men took selfies in the sunshine, while another sat on the grass and broke into a melancholy Arabic song. From the outside, they looked like any other group of Londoners enjoying a picnic on a rare day of sun, but they were also compatriots helping one another navigate a new society and piece together a new life. While Bahboub's group can't replace the jobs, property and prospects the refugees left behind in Syria, she is trying to replenish the intangible assets of love, hope and confidence. "I am optimistic," Bahboub said. "No war lasts forever." — AP

SOURCE SAYS EL CHAPO'S SON RELEASED IN MEXICO

CULIACAN: The son of jailed Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman has been released following his abduction earlier this week, a member of the Sinaloa cartel leader's family said Saturday. Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar, 29, reportedly was freed late Friday along with the five other men with whom he was kidnapped from a bar, a relative who requested anonymity for security reasons told AFP. "They were negotiating all this time, but now are free and well," the source said, adding that some of the captured men were already back in Sinaloa state.

Guzman Salazar-one of Guzman's sons from his first marriage-was attending a celebration early Monday at an upscale restaurant and bar in the resort city of Puerto Vallarta when gunmen in pick-up trucks swooped in and kidnapped him and five of his six companions. Several women who were also at the fete were allowed to leave unharmed. The younger Guzman himself a key operator in the Sinaloa cartel who is wanted for arrest under a 2009 warrant-was identified by the Jalisco state prosecutor's office based on security camera footage. Notified by AFP about the reported release, the Mexico Attorney General's office said simply that it is "still working on the investigation." Authorities had said they suspected the gunmen who seized the men were from the Jalisco New Generation cartel, an upstart rival of the Sinaloa cartel. Jalisco New Generation has grown into a powerful force in recent years, spreading into Asia and Europe and defying the authorities with attacks and ambushes. Last year it brought down an army helicopter with a rocket launcher, killing seven soldiers. The governors of western Jalisco and Sinaloa states, where the two crime syndicates are based, had warned of possible reprisals or even a full scale warfare between the drug cartels if Guzman Salazar was not released.

Violent but 'cleanly done'

There was still no word as to who is responsible for the kidnapping, but government officials said earlier this week that they were investigating the possible involvement of municipal police in the resort of Puerto Vallarta. Security camera footage of the abduction showed armed men bursting in and making their victims kneel down with their hands on their heads before taking them away. "It was violent but cleanly done," the restaurant's owner Ignacio Cadena Beraud told reporters earlier this week, describing the brutal precision of the abductions. 'El Chapo' Guzman was head of the powerful Sinaloa cartel and one of the world's most notorious criminals until he was recaptured and imprisoned in January. Guzman was arrested in 2014 but staged a spectacular jailbreak one year later, becoming for a period the world's most-wanted man. — AFP



LONDON: In this photo taken on Thursday, July 28, 2016, two Syrian refugees, left, concentrate during an English lesson with a volunteer teacher. — AP

PROMISED PROSPERITY NEVER ARRIVED IN RUSSIAN CRIMEA

ARMYANSK, Crimea: More than two years after Russia annexed Crimea and promised its 2 million people a better life, residents say prices have soared, wages and pensions have stagnated and tourists have fled. The sunny and mountainous Black Sea peninsula is back in the news, with Russian President Vladimir Putin accusing Kiev of sending infiltrators across the border to wreck its industry. But locals say the damage has already been done by Moscow's neglect.

"We joined Russia and they stopped giving a damn about us," Yevgeny, a worker at a titanium plant in the town of Armyansk told Reuters. "People are naive. They thought that if we were part of Russia, everything would be Russian. Prices have now jumped to the Russian level, but wages have stayed the same. That's the main problem." Fearing reprisals from his boss, Yevgeny declined to give his surname, as did other workers who spoke to Reuters.

Armyansk, a sleepy Crimean town near the newly-established border with Ukraine, is not far from where Russia says it fought armed clashes with Ukrainian infiltrators last week. Kiev says the clashes never took place and Moscow fabricated the incident as a possible pretext for new military action against Ukraine. The alleged plot has dominated headlines in Crimea, distracting attention away from the region's own problems. But according to some residents of Armyansk, a long way from Crimea's Tsarist-era palaces and its picturesque mountainous sea coast, those problems urgently need addressing.

Chemical plant

Armyansk has never been prosperous. A quarter of the town's 20,000 people work at the Crimea Titanium chemical plant, riding in dozens of identical green passenger buses to the factory from the town each morning, and back again in the afternoon. When Crimea was controlled by Ukraine, goods and services were affordable, and the plant's workers were able to treat themselves now and then, they say. But after Kiev blocked freight supplies last year prices soared.

"I can only buy food and it's hard to buy clothes," said Pavel, a technician, who said he was paid 17,000 roubles (\$265) a month. That is only around half the average monthly income in Russia. "It would be enough in Ukraine because prices were lower. I'm shocked. My wage is stuck and everything grows in price." Three other workers who spoke to Reuters described monthly salaries ranging from just 10,000 roubles for a laboratory assistant to 21,000 for a man who runs an engineering department. The Crimea Titanium plant is controlled by Ukrainian tycoon Dmytro Firtash. His spokesman and the plant's management did not reply to requests for

comment. Russia is building a bridge to link Crimea to southern Russia it hopes will establish a new supply route and reduce consumer prices. However the first trucks are not expected to be able to use it until 2018 at the earliest.

'We have no money'

Moscow is aware of Armyansk's woes. It put it on a list of more than 300 Russian towns identified as needing state-backed investment to diversify their economies. When contacted by Reuters, Crimea's economy ministry said no projects in the town had yet been developed. Russia announced plans to invest 680 billion roubles (around \$10 bln) in Crimea between now and 2020. That is on top of the billions of roubles it spends each month on pensions and payments to teachers, doctors and government employees. Pensioners, state employees and people working in the tourist industry were expected to enjoy a significant financial uplift after annexation. Instead, the rouble has lost about half of its value against the dollar since 2014 due to lower oil prices and Western sanctions. In May, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was filmed during a visit to Crimea being confronted by a woman who complained about low living standards for Crimea's half million pensioners. "It's impossible to get by on a pension in Crimea," she said. "Prices are crazy ... What is 8,000 (roubles)? It's a paltry sum." Medvedev's reply went viral online: "We simply have no money ... Bear up."

Empty restaurants

With its spas and Black Sea coast, Crimea has been a popular tourist resort since the Tsarist era, when Anton Chekhov wrote about illicit liaisons among the fashionable gentry vacationing on the Yalta promenade. Putin said last year that tourism in Crimea should be profitable and Moscow would consider measures to attract foreign visitors. But annexation has cut the peninsula off from Ukrainian holidaymakers who mainly arrived by train, and their numbers have not been made up by Russian tourists, who must travel by air to get there.

When Crimea was controlled by Ukraine, 6 million tourists a year visited, according to official data. Post-annexation, the number of tourists dropped sharply and has yet not recovered. "When we were in Ukraine, there were more people. You could hardly make your way through the crowd," said a bored-looking waiter on the smart terrace of a nearly empty restaurant called Europe, close to the sea in Yevpatoriya, a popular resort. Natalya, a waitress at Dulber, another restaurant in the town, said the customers that do come spend much less money than they used to when the peninsula was part of Ukraine.—Reuters

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ONE OF THE ALL-SAVER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES

ZIMBABWE: SUPPORTERS FUME AS PROTEST PASTOR ABSCONDS TO US

HARARE: From a symbol of resistance and hope, a pastor who galvanized thousands of Zimbabweans into anti-government action has become a subject of derision, fighting accusations of being a coward. Evan Mawarire became an instant hero after he organized this southern African country's biggest shutdown protest in nearly a decade through a social media campaign last month. His #ThisFlag campaign against economic stagnation and corruption concerns earned him criticism from the country's longtime president, 92-year-old Robert Mugabe. Then Mawarire left for neighboring South Africa, citing safety. Now he is in the United States and promises to lead anti-government protests outside an annual United Nations gathering of heads of state next month.

Many of his supporters have been fuming on social media. Some are

defending the 39-year-old's decision to leave. Others appear heartbroken. They vent their anger, confusion and feelings of betrayal, not least because one of Mawarire's most popular hashtag campaigns in the local Shona language was #Hatchatya, or "we are no longer afraid." "I wonder how your 11-year-old fan who penned a heartfelt letter would feel when she realizes you left," one supporter, Stewart Muchapera, wrote on Facebook, questioning whether the #ThisFlag movement wasn't a farce. "Come on man come back home and finish what u started," said Isiah Rondiwa on Facebook.

Others have defended Mawarire. "Ask not what Evan can do for u but what u can also do," Paul Nyikaz wrote. In one of his social media posts, Mawarire seemed to take a dig at his critics. "You are so quick to tell me to come back home but

you can't tell Bob to go away," he said, using Mugabe's nickname. Mawarire later apologized for the statement, promising to grow the protest movement by adding youth and student wings.

Public anger

"The public anger is understandable in that the youth thought they had found a leader in Mawarire. They had found their voice, now they feel deserted," said Gabriel Shumba, a human rights lawyer and chairman of the South Africa-based Zimbabwe Exiles Forum. "But then, he is more useful alive than dead, plus the movement has already taken root," said Shumba, who fled Zimbabwe in 2003 alleging torture by state security agents.

In an Aug 11 video announcing his United States visit, Mawarire said: "I am going to the US to meet some citizens

and take time out to consider about my next move." He has been speaking at events in the US and meeting Zimbabweans. He also promotes daily protests in New York for Zimbabweans in mid-September, promising the biggest demonstration yet outside Zimbabwe during the annual U.N. General Assembly's general debate.

Frustrations over a rapidly deteriorating economy have been boiling over in Zimbabwe, the once prosperous but now economically struggling former British colony. Mugabe has been in power since 1980, but even some of his core loyalists started to turn on him in recent weeks as protests grew. Shumba said Mawarire's campaign has been instrumental in emboldening a young generation disenchanted with life but too afraid to speak out.

Mawarire's first #ThisFlag video was

posted in April. He ranted about how the Zimbabwe flag's colors have lost significance because of alleged political mismanagement. The video attracted over 120,000 views on the day it was posted. The campaign then took on a life of its own. Other people now post videos of themselves wrapped in the flag and venting about their everyday problems. In recent weeks, young activists have used social media to organize daily protests, prompting military commanders and cabinet ministers to describe them as "cyber terrorists." They also have accused Mawarire of being supported by the West and now point to his move overseas as proof. Information minister Christopher Mushohwe told reporters this week that "Mawarire has since shown his true colors and is now where he truly belongs in the arms of his handlers." —AP

BANGKOK BOMB TRIAL WILL BEGIN WITHOUT MASTERMINDS IN DOCK

MOTIVE REMAINS CLOUDED IN MYSTERY

BANGKOK: Two Chinese nationals will go on trial this week for their alleged roles in a deadly bombing at a Bangkok shrine one year ago, an attack whose motive remains clouded in mystery following a murky and at times surreal investigation. The trial, which starts tomorrow, is being held at a military court in Bangkok and is expected to last more than a year. The bombing was the worst assault of its kind in Thailand's recent history. But one year later more than a dozen key suspects named during the investigation remain at large, while analysts say Thai authorities have yet to offer a convincing motive.

The small but powerful bomb packed with ball bearings killed 20 people and wounded more than 100 when it ripped through Erawan

shrine in the heart of Bangkok's shopping district on August 17, 2015. The Hindu shrine is popular among ethnic Chinese visitors, who made up a majority of the dead with five from Malaysia, five from China and two from Hong Kong. Two members of China's Muslim minority Uighur population-Yusuf Mieraili and Bilal Mohammed-have been charged with involvement.

Analysts have largely coalesced around the theory that the bombing was in revenge for the Thai junta's forcible return of 109 Uighurs to China weeks earlier. But Thai authorities have said the two incidents are unrelated and insist the bombing was carried out by a people smuggling gang angered by recent policing successes against human trafficking. The Uighur

minority say they face cultural and religious repression in their homeland of Xinjiang in northwest China, and many are believed to have fled the restive region in recent years. The junta's deportations sparked international condemnation and violent protests outside Thailand's diplomatic missions in Turkey, which has given refuge to many of the Turkic-speaking group.

Confusing investigation

Throughout the investigation Thai police and military officials sent out conflicting and at times contradictory messages. Junta officials initially pointed the finger at domestic critics of their rule. Then after investigators arrested the two Uighur suspects, they refused to confirm their Chinese nationality

for more than a week. Thai authorities have also refused to call the assault a terrorist attack despite the mass civilian casualties. Police eventually outlined a group of around 15 suspects, including Chinese Uighur, Turkish and Thai nationals, some of whom had either fled or allegedly organized the attack out of Turkey.

But none of those people is in the dock and there has been no publicly announced attempt to seek any extraditions from Turkey. Thai police drew further attention when the force's then-chief—who has since gone on to become head of Thailand's football federation—handed his officers a \$80,000 reward that had been open to the public. The investigation wound down shortly afterwards. Thai national Kanya Mayoon, 36, lost her sister Prani Srisuwa in the bombing.

"It seemed like they just wanted to close the case quickly," she told AFP, adding that the attack had robbed her family of their main breadwinner. "I just want the real masterminds to be arrested and punished," she said. Prosecutors accuse Mohammed of placing the bomb inside a backpack at the shrine and say Mieraili was involved in transporting the device. Both deny the charges. In a statement released through his lawyer, Mohammed-also known as Adem Karadag-said he was an illegal migrant trying to make his way to Malaysia to find work when police raided the Bangkok flat he was staying in.

The pair are being held at a prison in a military barracks in Bangkok which has been criticised by rights groups. Two people died in custody there last year. In preliminary hearings a sobbing Mohammed accused his Thai captors of beating him and denying him halal food in prison. Thai authorities have denied those allegations. —AFP



BANGKOK: This picture taken on August 20, 2016 shows dancers lighting joss sticks before praying at Erawan Shrine, a popular tourist landmark. —AFP

NIGERIA OIL REBELS ANNOUNCE CONDITIONAL CEASEFIRE, TALKS

WARRI: A Nigerian rebel group has announced a conditional ceasefire and agreed to hold talks with the government following months of attacks on key oil and gas facilities that have hammered the economy. In a message posted on the Niger Delta Avengers' (NDA) website late on Saturday, the group said it would "observe a cessation of hostilities," so long as the country's ruling party stops what it called harassment of innocent civilians. It said it would support efforts to negotiate with "the federal government of Nigeria, representatives from the home countries of all multinational oil corporations and neutral international mediators."

There have been unconfirmed reports for several weeks of talks underway with Abuja, and the government of President Muhammadu Buhari has invited rebels to discussions several times. But the NDA never publicly acknowledged that it was engaged in negotiations, or that it would support efforts by community figures from the area. The NDA said it would honor its ceasefire pledge "unless the ruling political APC (All Progressives Congress party) continues ... to arrest, intimidate, invade and harass innocent citizens and invade especially Ijaw communities." Otherwise it warned: "We promise to fight more for the Niger Delta, if this opportunity fails." The Ijaw ethnic people of Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa states have long dominated oil rebel groups operating in the area, although experts say militants from other communities have also set up new branches.

Devastating attacks

When he took office last year President Buhari announced he wanted to progressively wind down a scheme which had offered amnesty to former members of armed groups in the Delta, notably the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). The scheme was inherited from the previous government of Buhari's predecessor Goodluck Jonathan.

Since 2009 large sums of money have been paid in allowances to some 30,000 former fighters, while training programs were offered to those who pledged to lay down their arms. MEND, which is in talks with the government, distanced itself from the NDA in a statement yesterday. "MEND reiterates its full support for the ongoing military presence in the Niger Delta region," said the statement by its spokesman Jomo Gbomo, accusing the NDA of being supported by former president Jonathan to destabilize the country.

The NDA has carried out a string of devastating attacks on Nigeria's oil pipelines and facilities since the start of the year. Two state-owned pipelines were blown up in the delta region on Friday, in attacks blamed on the NDA. Also on Friday, a newly emerged group calling itself the

Niger Delta Greenland Justice Mandate (NDGJM) claimed responsibility for an attack on the same day. Earlier this month, the NDA threatened to pull the oil region out of Nigeria, accusing the president of fuelling divisions in the country.

Dire poverty

Oil majors including Shell, Exxon, Chevron, Eni and the state-run oil group NNPC have all been targeted by attacks this year. The assaults have reduced Nigeria's output by 21.5 percent since January, according to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), hammering government revenue at a time of low global oil prices. Before the attacks, the oil sector accounted for 90 percent of the nation's foreign exchange earnings and 70 percent of government revenue. —AFP



DELTA STATE: This file photo taken on June 10, 2016 shows an advertising board in the City of Warri in the Delta State. —AFP



LAHORE: Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party burn effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a demonstration. —AFP

INDIAN MINISTER WEIGHS IN ON AMNESTY FREE SPEECH DEBATE

NEW DELHI: A senior Indian minister appeared yesterday to support police in a row over free speech that saw Amnesty slapped with sedition charges for an event about the disputed Kashmir region. Police in the southern city of Bangalore filed the initial charges last week following complaints that slogans on independence for the troubled region had been chanted at the event organized by the rights group.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley compared the freedom slogans to those at another event earlier this year at a prestigious New Delhi university that saw a student leader arrested on sedition charges. "During an event in Bangalore... there were slogans for freedom (from India)... it was organized by a group that receives a lot of funding from abroad," Jaitley said at a rally in the Jammu part of the Himalayan state that includes Kashmir, without directly naming Amnesty.

"In Delhi, there were slogans calling for destruction of the country... raising slogans that advocate breaking the nation into pieces cannot be seen as freedom of speech and expression," he said. Jaitley was referring to the rally in February at the university in which slogans were chanted that led to the student's arrest, sparking a major row over freedom of expression in India. Sedition carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, although convictions are rare. In the latest case Amnesty denied its staff made any such comments on independence for Kashmir. It said the charges showed a lack of "fundamental rights and freedoms in India."

Amnesty has said the event was focused on human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir which has been reeling from weeks of deadly violence between protesters and security forces. Police have said they will investigate who made the comments following complaints from a Hindu nationalist student group. Rights campaigners have long accused India's governments of using the British-era sedition law to clamp down on dissent. Sedition charges have been used in the past against supporters of independence for Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed in full by both. Indian forces have

since 1989 been fighting militant groups seeking either independence for Kashmir or a merger with Pakistan. At least 63 civilians have been killed and more than 6,000 injured in the most recent clashes between protesters and security forces, sparked by the killing of a top militant.

Militants killed near Kashmir border

Meanwhile, Indian soldiers killed three suspected rebels in a gun battle yesterday in Indian-administered Kashmir, the army said, as the region reels from weeks of deadly violence between protesters and security forces. The rebels were killed in Tangdhar north of the main city of Srinagar after crossing over from the Pakistani side of the heavily militarized border that divides the area between the two countries, it said.

"Three terrorists were killed in the fight. Three assault rifles were also recovered from the site of the gun battle," army spokesman Colonel NN Joshi told AFP. The army was trying to determine if the rebels were part of the same group that attacked an Indian ammunition depot in the area on Friday, injuring at least three border guards. Indian Kashmir has been under curfew since protests erupted over the death last month of a popular young rebel leader, Burhan Wani, in a gunfight with security forces. More than 60 civilians have been killed in clashes between protesters and security forces, and thousands more injured in the worst violence to hit the Himalayan region since 2010. Kashmir has been divided between rivals India and Pakistan since the end of British rule in 1947. Both claim the Himalayan region in full.

Wani's Hizbul Mujahideen and several other rebel groups have fought for decades an estimated 500,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the territory, demanding independence for the region or its merger with Pakistan. Tens of thousands, mostly civilians, have died in the fighting since 1989 when the armed rebellion began. India blames Pakistan for arming and sending rebels across the de facto border to launch attacks on Indian forces. Islamabad denies the allegations saying it only provides moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri struggle for right to self-determination. —Agencies

SRI LANKA AIRLINES SUSPENDS DRUNK PILOT DUE TO FLY JET

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's national carrier has suspended a captain who failed a breathalyser test just before he was due to fly 274 passengers and crew from Frankfurt to Colombo, the airline said yesterday. "Upon receiving the results (of the test) SriLankan Airlines took immediate steps to suspend the services of the said captain and took alternative measures to operate the flight to Colombo," the airline said in a statement.

An airline source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Flight UL554 was held up at Frankfurt airport for more than 15 hours on Friday as staff scrambled to find another captain for

the Airbus A330. The crew raised the alarm after noticing that the captain was visibly drunk, the source, who has direct knowledge of the matter, told AFP. The airline said an internal investigation was underway into the incident and it would cooperate with any probe by German authorities. The cash-strapped airline is due to stop its flights to Frankfurt from October as it slashes routes to European destinations. It is also planning to lease out some of its A330 planes to other airlines in an attempt to raise cash. Suffering from an accumulated \$1-billion loss, it is seeking a foreign partner to take over its management. —AFP

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SEOUL WARNS OF LIKELY ASSASSINATION SQUADS

SEOUL: South Korea warned yesterday of possible North Korean assassinations and kidnappings in revenge for recent high-profile defections to the South. With tensions also high before a large-scale South Korea-US military exercise starting today, the Unification Ministry in Seoul said Pyongyang was bent on provocation. A ministry official told reporters the defection to Seoul of North Korea's deputy ambassador to Britain and his family had put the North in "a very difficult situation."

"Considering (North Korean leader) Kim Jong-Un's character, it is very dangerous," the official said on condition of anonymity. "It's highly likely that North Korea will make various attempts to prevent further defections and unrest among its people." The official cited assassination attempts and terror attacks against defectors in the South as well as the abduction of South Koreans abroad as possible provocations. He noted attempts to assassinate Hwang Jang-Yop, the North's chief ideologue and former tutor to previous leader Kim Jong-Il, who defected to the South in 1997 and died of natural causes in 2010. The official also said Kim

Jong-Un had dispatched squads to the Chinese border "to harm South Koreans" following the defection in April of a group of North Korean overseas restaurant workers.

Deputy ambassador Thae Yong-Ho was believed to have worked at the embassy in London for 10 years before his defection announced last week. The South said he was driven by disgust for the Pyongyang regime, admiration for South Korea's free and democratic system and concerns for his family's future. North Korea, in a vitriolic response Saturday, claimed that the "human scum" had embezzled state funds, raped a minor and spied for the South and had fled "for fear of legal punishment for his crimes." The 12 waitresses and their manager had been working at a North Korea-themed restaurant in China. They made headlines when they arrived in the South in April as the largest group defection for years. While Seoul said they fled voluntarily, Pyongyang claimed they were kidnapped by South Korea's National Intelligence Service and waged a vocal campaign through its state media-including interviews with family members-for their return.

'Mean plot'

Seoul said last week the 13-strong group was now free to settle in South Korean society after the intelligence service completed investigations into their case and allowed them to leave custody. A spokesman for the North's emergency committee set up for "rescuing" abductees described that announcement as a "mean plot" aimed at "covering up the truth behind the group abduction." "Keeping them hidden from the public... citing 'safety reasons' shows that the puppet government's announcement is a complete fabrication," he said. "We will continue fighting until we can rescue and bring back our female citizens."

Nearly 30,000 North Koreans have fled poverty and repression at home to settle in the capitalist South. But group defections are rare, especially by staff who work in the North Korea-themed restaurants overseas and are hand-picked from families considered "loyal" to the regime. Today, Seoul and Washington begin their annual joint Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercise involving tens of thousands of troops. —AFP



PYONGYANG: A man wipes his sweat away with a handkerchief while women walk with parasols outside the main train station decorated with portraits of North Korean leaders, Kim Il Sung, left, and Kim Jong Il. —AP

DUTERTE THREATENS TO PULL PHILIPPINES OUT OF UN

ORGANIZATION CRITICAL OF HIS BLOODY WAR ON CRIME

MANILA: President Rodrigo Duterte threatened yesterday to withdraw the Philippines from the United Nations, as he launched another profanity-laced tirade against the organization for criticizing his bloody war on crime. More than 1,500 people have been killed since Duterte took office and immediately began his law-and-order crackdown, according to police statistics, triggering fierce criticism from the UN and rights groups.

Duterte, a lawyer famous for an acid tongue who has repeatedly told the UN not to interfere, on Sunday stepped up his rhetoric against the organization. "Maybe we'll just have to decide to separate from the United Nations. If you are that disrespectful, son of a whore, then I will just leave you," Duterte said in a press conference in his home city of Davao that started about 1:00 am. Duterte said he may even try to set up a rival international organization. "I would invite everybody. I would invite maybe China, the African (nations)," he said.

The UN's special reporter on summary executions, Agnes Callamard, last week said Duterte's promise of immunity and bounties to security forces who killed drug suspects violated international law. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in June also strongly criticized Duterte, who during the election campaign promised to kill 100,000 people and dump so many bodies in Manila Bay that the fish would grow fat from feeding on them. "I unequivocally condemn his apparent endorsement of extrajudicial killings, which is illegal and a breach of fundamental rights and freedoms," Ban said. Duterte frequently peppers his public comments with swear words—he has also called Pope Francis and the US ambassador to Manila sons of whores—and days after his election win used typical language to criticize the UN. "F**k you, UN, you can't even solve the Middle East carnage... couldn't even lift a finger in Africa," he said then.

Tirade against UN

Duterte lashed out in a similar fashion on Sunday, accusing the "stupid" UN of not doing anything in Middle East hotspots Syria and Iraq. Duterte referenced a haunting photo taken last week of a little Syrian boy, who was pictured sitting in an ambulance dazed and covered in blood after an air strike, as evidence of the UN's ineffectiveness. "Is that stupid body complaining about the stench there of death. Look at the iconic boy taken out of the rubble. When he was made to sit in the ambulance, and we saw it. So what's the difference?"

And Duterte asked why police killings in the United States were not attracting the same kind of criticism as the



DAVAO CITY: This handout photo taken on yesterday and released by the Presidential Photographers Division (PPD) shows President Rodrigo R Duterte gesturing as he speaks during a press conference at the presidential guest house. —AFP

Philippines. "What do you think the Americans did to the black people there? Is that not rubbing off also? And (critics) say what?" Duterte also accused the UN of doing nothing for the Philippines-ignoring its poverty reduction programs and enormous help following typhoons and other natural disasters.

On the day he was sworn into office, Duterte called for people in slums to kill neighbors whom they believed were drug addicts, repeating a campaign line. His aides have since said such comments are merely hyperbole and not meant to be taken literally. However nearly 900 people have been murdered by unknown people during Duterte's time in power, with police killing another 665 alleged drug suspects, according to the national police chief.

The killings represent a massive increase on crime deaths since Duterte took office. Duterte has repeatedly insisted police have only killed in self defense, while maintaining the other deaths are due to drug syndicates killing each other. Duterte and his aides have given conflicting positions on whether they would allow UN experts to come to the Philippines to investigate allegations government security forces are carrying out extrajudicial killings.

Yesterday, he contradicted his spokesman's comments from the previous day and challenged them to come. "You law experts of the United Nations, come here and face me and make the accusations," he said. On Wednesday last week he said if an investigator came to the Philippines, "I'd like to box him in the head." —AFP

BRITISH MAN NAMED NEXT SUSPECT IN BALI MURDER

DENPASAR: A British man has been named a suspect, along with an Australian woman, in the murder of an Indonesian policeman on the resort island of Bali, police said yesterday. Forensic teams have identified the blood of the slain policeman in a hotel room occupied by the suspects, Sara Connor and David Taylor, police added. Connor, a mother from New South Wales, was named a suspect on Saturday.

Traffic police officer Wayan Sudarsa's body was found with wounds to the head and neck early Wednesday on Kuta beach, a popular tourist hangout in the south of the island. Denpasar police chief Hadi Purnomo said forensic tests had matched blood found in the pair's hotel room with the victim, as well as samples taken from the crime scene. "There is evidence we have found that allows investigators to declare him a suspect," said Purnomo of Taylor.

Police had also gathered shards of glass from a bottle found at the crime scene they believe may have been used in Sudarsa's murder, Purnomo added. Police formed a guard of honor yesterday at the funeral for the murdered officer before he was cremated in a Hindu ceremony. Naming the pair as suspects is a formal step in the Indonesian legal system, which means detectives have enough evidence to consider filing charges. The murder charge they could face carries a maximum penalty of 15 years, though they could also face lesser charges.

A manhunt was launched for the pair after Connor's ATM card and driver's license were found at the crime scene. They were arrested at the Australian consulate Friday afternoon and taken to a police station in the Balinese capital, Denpasar. Connor's lawyer Erwin Siregar said the couple had drunk beer before going to the beach around 11pm tomorrow, where there was "kissing." No drugs were involved, he added.

Purnomo said there were nine witnesses assisting with their investigation. Police previously said witnesses had claimed they saw a man with dreadlocks-like Taylor-arguing with a police officer. A man and woman matching their description were later spotted asking a motorcycle taxi to take them to a hotel but the driver refused as the man was covered in blood. Bali, a pocket of Hinduism in Muslim-majority Indonesia, is a popular tourist destination known for its tropical climate and palm-fringed beaches. Petty crime is common but murders are rare. —AFP



HONG KONG: Activists holding a banner and US flags march during a rally against the banning of pro-independence candidates in the upcoming legislative council elections. —AFP

PROTEST OVER ELECTION BAN ON HK PRO-INDEPENDENCE ACTIVISTS

HONG KONG: Hundreds of protesters marched through Hong Kong's main streets yesterday against a ban on pro-independence candidates from running in an upcoming legislative election, as fears grow over Beijing's influence in the city. In the last month five candidates who advocate a split from China were rejected from standing in the September 4 vote, with officials saying their stance went against Hong Kong's mini-constitution.

Critics have slammed the move as censorship as fears grow over Beijing interference in the semi-autonomous city in a range of areas, from politics to media and education. The idea of independence is dismissed as illegal by Beijing and Hong Kong authorities, and was a taboo subject until

recent months, when new parties emerged campaigning for a breakaway. "I hope that people are aware of the political vetting. It is something that every Hongkonger should be concerned about because damage has been done to the rule of law as well as fairness in elections," protest organizer Jimmy Sham Tsz-kit, of Civil Human Rights Front, told reporters before the rally.

Marchers held banners with the slogans "No political vetting!" and "Watch out! Iranian-style election in Hong Kong!" and shouted: "Give me back fair elections!" and "Defend freedom of speech!" "Talking about independence is part of freedom of speech. I'm worried that in future people will have to watch what they say,"

20-year-old student Arry Tsui told AFP. Police said up to 760 people participated in the protest, with organizers claiming more than 1,000 supporters.

Support for the independence movement has surged since the five were banned from standing in the elections. Earlier this month, they led the city's first pro-independence rally as tension over the upcoming vote escalates. The growth of "localism," and new calls for self-determination and independence, grew out of frustration among many young activists at the failure of mass pro-democracy rallies in 2014 to win any political reforms from Beijing. The city was returned from Britain to China in 1997 with an arrangement that guaranteed civil liberties. —AFP

News

in brief

No date set for Australia same sex marriage vote

SYDNEY: The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has recommended that a vote on whether to allow same sex marriage be delayed, but a spokesman for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday no decision had been made. Australia has been criticized by international human rights groups over its slowness to act on same-sex marriage. Several countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, United States, France, New Zealand, Ireland and South Africa, have already amended their marriage laws to recognize same-sex unions. The Daily Telegraph reported on Saturday that the plebiscite, which Turnbull had promised to hold this year, had been delayed until at least February, but a spokesman for the prime minister said no date had been set. "Late last week the AEC provided advice to the Special Minister of State that strongly recommended against the conduct of a plebiscite this calendar year," the spokeswoman told Reuters. "The government has always said that a decision on same-sex marriage will be made by a vote of all Australians in a national plebiscite to be held as soon as practicable. That commitment has not changed."

Japan protests as China ships near disputed isles

TOKYO: Tokyo protested to Beijing yesterday after Chinese coast guard ships sailed into territorial waters surrounding disputed islands in the East China Sea, Japan said. Four Chinese vessels entered the waters surrounding islets, called the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China, around 10:00 am local time (0100 GMT), according to Japan Coast Guard. They left the territorial waters within an hour, the coast guard said. The two countries are locked in a long-running dispute over the uninhabited islets. Tokyo has lodged at least 32 protests through diplomatic channels since August 5 over what it says have been about 30 intrusions by Chinese vessels in the territorial waters.

Ten dead in Indonesian boat accident: Officials

JAKARTA: Ten people died yesterday when a boat sank in rough seas off western Indonesia, a navy official said, with a search underway for five others still missing. The small boat was carrying 17 passengers from the port city of Tanjung Pinang in Riau Islands province east of Sumatra when it encountered bad weather, navy spokesman Edi Sucipto told AFP. "Twelve people have been found, but ten had already passed away," he said, adding the two injured were in critical condition. A navy speedboat was still searching for the five still missing, Sucipto added. The stricken vessel was only a small craft equipped with an outboard motor, he said. The journey was supposed to take around an hour. The Indonesian archipelago of more than 17,000 islands is heavily dependent on boat transport, but fatal accidents are common. More than 60 people died in December when huge waves capsized a ferry charting a course through Sulawesi province.

Japan braces for two approaching typhoons

TOKYO: Japan was on alert yesterday for high winds, heavy rain and landslides as the country braces for two typhoons on course to make landfall. Typhoon Kompasu was expected to hit northern Hokkaido Island yesterday evening, packing gusts up to 126 kilometers per hour, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The storm, located in the Pacific some 100 kilometers southeast of Kamaishi city at 9:00 local time Sunday (0000 GMT), was already dumping heavy rain that has flooded rivers in Hokkaido. The agency issued warnings for heavy rain, landslides and high waves in and around Hokkaido from Kompasu. Typhoon Mindulle, located in the Pacific 170 kilometers west northwest of Chichijima island at 9:00 local time Sunday (0000 GMT), was heading north toward the Japanese main island of Honshu with gusts up to 126 kilometers per hour, the agency said. Mindulle was expected to landfall in central Japan Monday morning, possibly close to Tokyo, the agency said. Meanwhile, Typhoon Lionrock was in the Pacific south of the island of Shikoku, but was not projected to directly hit Japan, the agency said. —Agencies



An Iraqi family swims while the sun sets over the Mediterranean Sea at the Ramlet al Bayda public beach in Beirut, Lebanon on Saturday. — AP

TOURISTS IN BOSNIA DELIGHT BUSINESS, POLARIZE LOCALS

Continued from Page 1

The number of visitors from the United Arab Emirates surged to 13,000 in the first seven months of this year from 7,265 last year, according to hotel data from the Sarajevo tourist board. In 2010, there were only 65 visitors from the UAE. Bosnia does not have a national tourism authority and data on land purchases is patchy in the Balkan country which has a fragmented government system. Unofficial estimates put the total number of Arab tourists at between 50,000-60,000 a year, with about a quarter buying property. The visitors bring much needed cash to the economy which has not recovered from the 1990s war.

But many local Muslims, who pray only at mosques or at home, were shocked when a group of Arab men

dressed in traditional robes prayed outdoors at a popular weekend resort near Sarajevo last year. Others have been upset by a Saudi-funded mall that serves no alcohol or pork. "I'm not glad that they are coming," said Amina, a Muslim pharmacist from Sarajevo in her 50s. "I'm worried about what influence they can have on our children if they stayed here."

Many Bosnians remember the Arab fighters who came during the 1992-1995 war to fight with Bosnian Muslims against Serbs and Croats, bringing with them a stricter form of Islam which drew followers, some of whom fought in Syria and Iraq for Islamic State. At the end of the war, some restaurants and cafes in the Ottoman-era old town of the capital stopped serving alcohol and pork and residents say they have now disappeared from the menu in other cafes which have started to do the same.

Esad Durakovic, a professor of Arabic studies at the University of Sarajevo, wrote in an editorial for the Depo news portal last week property purchases by Gulf visitors could hurt a delicate religious balance in Bosnia. "This is not about tourists who come and go but about those who permanently stay on their property," he said, saying that it could fuel a desire for secession among some Bosnian Serbs. "They will not want to live in 'Muslimstan.'"

Travel and real estate agents dismiss those concerns, saying the country should welcome the money to help get the economy back on track and that the visitors only come in the summer to escape the heat at home. "I'm really wondering why so many people are questioning (Arab investments) rather than getting profit out of it... I find it really sad," said Abdelal Mustafa, general manager of Saudi-based HR Holidays travel agency.

They want the state to improve legislation to encourage more visitors and investors in Bosnia. "The legalization blocks a lot of money," said Tariq Burjaq, executive director of the Kuwaiti Rawasi Real estate company, which is building a 25 million euro worth residential complex at the foot of Igman mountain, near Sarajevo, with 246 housing units.

Mirsada Gostevic who was selling honey and blackberry and raspberry juice near the Sarajevo Resort where Sanousi's family has a property, does not see what all the fuss is about. "I don't mind that Arabs are coming, I don't know why people are bothered with that. This is a country where life is difficult, and we are looking forward to earning more money," Gostevic said as visitors from the Gulf strolled along improvised shop-stands where local farmers sold their produce. — Reuters

'IS CHILD BOMBER' KILLS 51 AT TURKEY...

Continued from Page 1

During the explosion, the neighbor died on top of me. I remember being underneath. If my neighbor hadn't fallen on top of me, I would have died," she said. "The bride and groom - Besna and Nurettin Akdogan - were rushed to hospital but were not seriously wounded. According to the state-run Anadolu news agency, the bride was released from hospital, saying as she left: "They turned our wedding into a bloodbath." She later returned to hospital after repeatedly fainting, Anadolu reported.

Funerals for many of the victims took place yesterday with an AFP photographer saying that some covered relatives' coffins with the Kurdistan flag. As hundreds waited to say their final goodbye, some voiced anger at what they perceived to be the government's failure to prevent the attack. Shouts of "shame on you, Erdogan" rang out while others hurled water bottles at police who kept their distance from rowdy crowds for fear of violence. One distraught mother wailed: "I lost my children, now I will never see them again."

Erdogan told reporters the death toll was now 51 with 94 hurt in the attack. A total of 69 people remained in hospital, with 17 in critical condition. Health Minister Recep Akdag said a large number of those injured were women and children. The bride and groom were reportedly from the mainly Kurdish region of Siirt further to the east and had themselves been uprooted due to the flare-up in violence with Kurdish militants. The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) said its members had been present at the wedding.

Erdogan said such attacks aimed to sow division between Turkey's different groups including Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen and to "spread incitement along ethnic and religious lines". Many jihadists see Kurds as

one of their main enemies, with Kurdish militias playing a significant role in the fight against IS on the ground in Syria. A defiant Erdogan said there was "no difference" between the group of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen - whom he blames for the failed coup bid - the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) "and Daesh (IS), the likely perpetrator of the attack in Gaziantep". "Our country and our nation have again only one message to those who attack us - you will not succeed!" he said.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Gaziantep would show the same spirit it had shown in 1921, when it defeated French forces in Turkey's Independence War which led to the word Gazi (war hero) being added to its original name of Antep. World leaders quickly condemned the attack, with President Francois Hollande denouncing the "vile" incident and pledging that France "stands with all who fight against the scourge of terrorism."

US ambassador to Turkey John Bass condemned the "barbaric attack on innocent civilians", adding that Washington would "continue to work closely together to defeat the common threat of terrorism". The pope called on faithful to pray for the victims while Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned the "cowardly and underhand" attack "in the strongest terms".

A major city just 60 km north of the Syrian border, Gaziantep has become a hub for Syrians fleeing the civil war in their country. But as well as refugees and opposition activists, there have long been fears it was home to a significant jihadist presence. IS suicide bombers have carried out several attacks in Istanbul this year, while Kurdish militants have hit targets in both Ankara and Istanbul. On Thursday, 12 people were killed in three bombings blamed on the PKK, who Erdogan said had killed 70 members of the security forces in the last month alone. The blast in Gaziantep came just hours after Yildirim said Ankara would play a "more active" role in efforts to solve the Syrian civil war. — Agencies

IRAN TOUTS MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

Continued from Page 1

Rouhani said in a televised speech yesterday that Iran's military budget had more than doubled compared with last year. "If we are able to discuss with world powers around the negotiating table, it is because of our national strength, because of our national unity," he said. Rouhani also unveiled the first Iranian-made turbojet engine yesterday, saying it was capable of flight at 50,000 feet. "The Islamic republic is one of eight countries in the world who have mastered the technology to build these

engines," the president said.

Dehghan added that Iran was now looking to develop sea-borne cruise missiles capable of supersonic speed. In 2015, shortly before the conclusion of an international agreement on Iran's nuclear program, Moscow reauthorized the delivery of the S-300 system in a move criticized by the United States and Israel. Iran's army said in May that it was now equipped with the S-300 system, though further parts are due over the coming months. The new Bavar 373 has Iran's first vertical launcher, using Sayad 3 missiles that were first tested in Sept 2014. — AFP

IRAQ HANGS 36 MILITANTS OVER 2014 MASSACRE

Continued from Page 1

The Dhiqar governor confirmed to AFP that the executions were carried out by hanging. His spokesman said that around 400 of the Speicher massacre victims were from the Dhiqar province located in Iraq's south. "Tens of relatives attended the executions," said Dawood. "They shouted Allahu Akbar (God is greatest), they were happy to see those people dead." Among them was Najla Shaab, a 30-year-old woman whose husband was killed in the massacre, leaving her to raise their children alone. "Thank you God, it's a fair punishment for the worst crime, a triple crime of killing, throwing bodies in the river and burying people alive," she told AFP by phone. One of the sites of the massacre was the former river police building inside former president Saddam Hussein's palace complex in Tikrit. Video footage subsequently released by IS showed an assembly-line massacre in which gunmen herded their victims towards the quay, shot them in the back of the head and pushed them in the water one after the other. The trials that have led to Iraq's latest batches of death sentences have been severely criticized by rights

groups as failing to meet basic standards.

Amnesty International had slammed Iraq's systematic resort to the death penalty following the execution of 22 other people in May this year. "The use of the death penalty is deplorable in all circumstances, and it is particularly horrendous when applied after grossly unfair trials marred by allegations of confessions extracted under torture as is frequently the case in Iraq," the group's Iraq researcher Diana Eltahawy said.

The United Nations had criticized Abadi's call to speed up executions, which according to Amnesty already topped 100 for 2016 before yesterday's hangings. "Fast-tracking executions will only accelerate injustice," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said earlier this month. The Speicher massacre is considered one of IS' worst crimes since it took over large parts of the country in 2014. Combined with a call by the country's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani for Iraqis to take up arms against them, the Speicher massacre played a key role in the mass recruitment of Shiite volunteers to fight the jihadists. — AFP

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Issues

LEARNING TIME
LOST DUE TO US
SCHOOL THREATS

By Kantele Franko

The prosecutor calls it "bomb week", his shorthand for eight school threats - many written in school bathrooms or on notes - over a few days in May that set off evacuations and investigations, parental panic, and the rumor mill of students linked by cellphones and social media in his Ohio county. Track athletes missed an end-of-season competition, and some high schoolers started carrying their car keys with them instead of leaving them in lockers, just in case, Warren County prosecutor David Fornshell said. One mother complained that a girl who uses an insulin pump had taken it off for gym class and had to evacuate without it.

"Nobody who sends their kids to school should have to go through that kind of stress and that type of disruption," Fornshell said. Such violent or disruptive threats are increasing nationwide, according to police, school employees, security consultants and others, blamed sometimes on local students and sometimes on outsiders seeking to cause disruptions or a big emergency response. State and local agencies don't track the threats, meaning there's no formal accounting of the collective costs. The disruptions typically aren't long enough to merit makeup classes, but the learning time lost to evacuations and cancellations adds up, as do the hours police spend responding and investigating.

Less measurable but still significant are the ways threats can dent staff and students' sense of security even when they're false alarms, as they almost always are. "Schools are in a really bad position," said researcher Amy Klinger, of the nonprofit Educator's School Safety Network. "People are going to be mad if you evacuate; people are going to be upset if you don't evacuate."

The number of school bomb threats the last academic year alone, based on media reports, was at least 1,267, roughly twice as many as in 2012-13, said Klinger, who also teaches educational administration at Ohio's Ashland University. Her group estimates there were about eight bomb threats per school day last year, and that doesn't include other threats of violence and disruption. Massachusetts had the most in that tally at 135 bomb threats, followed by Ohio with 96.

Because administrators and police can't simply ignore threats, they grapple with the fallout while trying to deter copycats. In Ohio, more than 170 school threats were reported in the 2015-16 school year, according to an Associated Press tally based on police updates and media coverage. Threats of bombs, shootings and unspecified violence were called in, written as notes, scrawled on walls and shared via social media and apps. Over 100 Ohio public school districts, or roughly one in every six districts, dealt with at least one threat, as did a handful of private and charter schools and several college-level facilities.

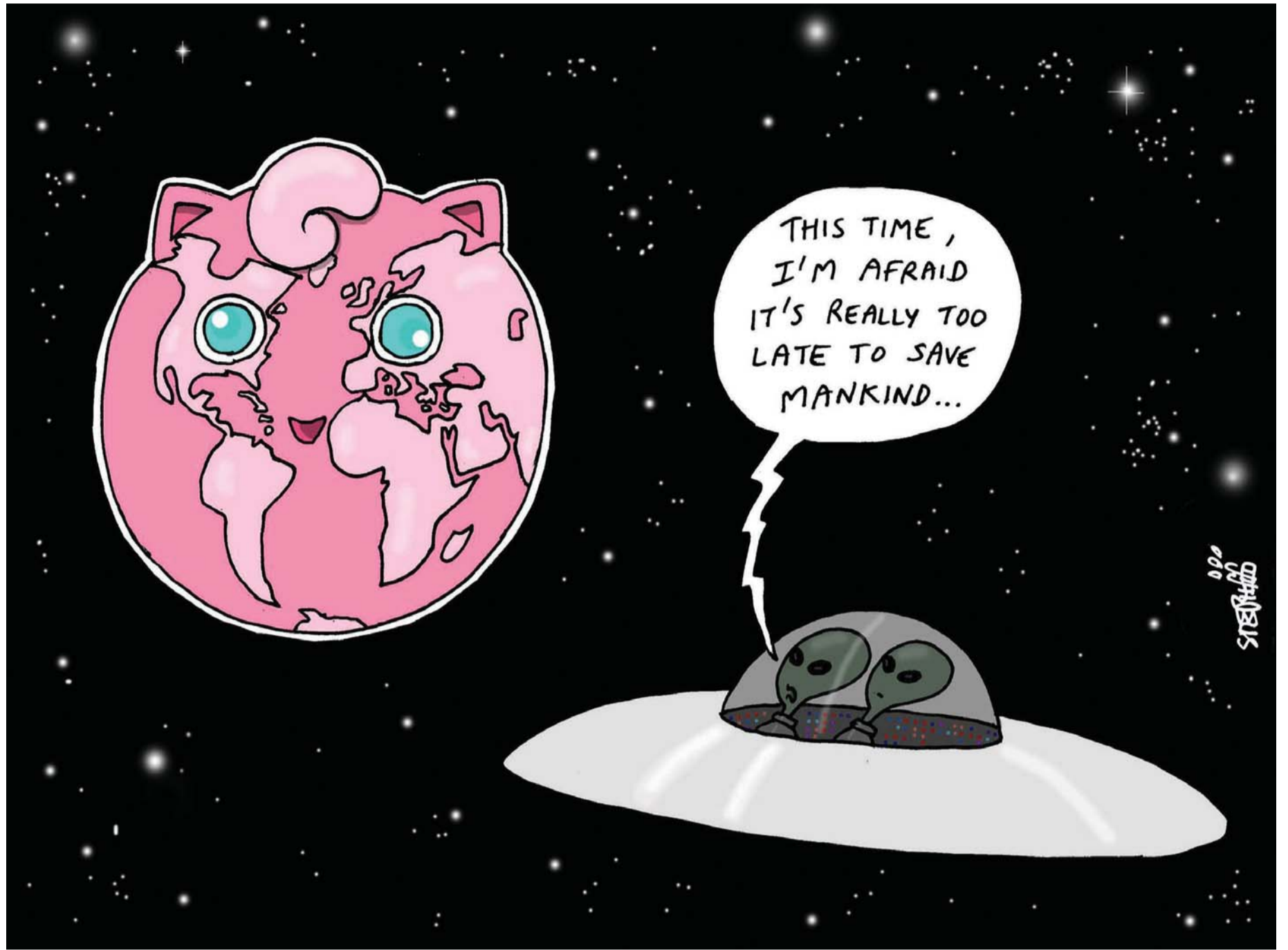
Ohio-based consulting firm National School Safety and Security Services had flagged the state as having more school threats - 64 - than any other state in the first half of the previous academic year. The firm said it studied over 800 threats around the country in that period, up from 315 in a similar span a year earlier. At least a couple of the recent Ohio threats occurred one day in late May when dozens of threats were made against schools nationwide as officials investigated whether it might be a case of "swatting", when hoaxers playing online games anonymously make threats online or by phone to trigger big responses from police and SWAT teams. Some of those schools evacuated; others didn't.

Months earlier, an email threatening a large-scale jihad attack had prompted the Los Angeles Unified School District to cancel classes for a day in December, while school officials in New York City quickly dismissed a similar email as a hoax. Schools where students and visitors entered freely a decade or two ago now have surveillance cameras, locked doors and special security procedures. The National Association of School Resource Officers estimates the number of such officers in schools has grown to between 14,000 and 20,000, some armed. And teachers are sometimes perceived as first responders.

Penalties

Lawmakers in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and elsewhere have explored strengthening penalties for school threats. In Ohio, lawmakers are proposing legislation to let schools expel students for months for making certain kinds of threats and have them evaluated to determine whether they're a danger to themselves or others. The bill, supported by associations representing school boards, superintendents and school business managers, also would let districts and law enforcement agencies seek restitution from a student's parents for the costs of responding to their threat. —AP

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WHY COLOMBIA CONFLICT COULD SOON END

By Fernando Vergara

Deep in the country's southern jungles, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are preparing for a peace deal that they and the government say could be just weeks away. Associated Press journalists recently visited the rebels at four different camps on the condition they not reveal the precise locations because of security concerns.

A look at the past and future of Colombia's half-century guerrilla conflict:

How it Started

The 1948 assassination of populist firebrand Jorge Eliecer Gaitan led to a political bloodletting known as "La Violencia", or "The Violence." Tens of thousands died, and peasant groups joined with communists to arm themselves. A 1964 military attack on

their main encampment led to the creation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

What the Rebels Wanted

Though nominally Marxist at its founding, the FARC's ideology has never been well defined. It has sought to make the conservative oligarchy share power and prioritized land reform in a country where more than 5 million people have been forcibly displaced, mostly by far-right militias in the service of ranchers, businessmen and drug traffickers. The FARC lost popularity as it turned to kidnapping, extortion and taxes on cocaine production and illegal gold mining to fund its insurgency.

How the US Got Involved

In 2000, the United States began sending billions of dollars for counter-narcotics and

insurgency efforts under Plan Colombia, which helped security forces weaken the FARC and kill several top commanders. The State Department classifies the group as a terrorist organization and its leaders face US indictments for what the George W Bush administration called the world's largest drug-trafficking organization.

The Massive Human Toll

More than 220,000 lives have been lost, most of them civilians. In the past two decades, many of the killings were inflicted by the militias, which made peace with the government in 2003. The FARC abducted ranchers, politicians and soldiers who were often held for years in jungle prison camps. Its captives included former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt and three U.S. military contractors, all of whom were rescued in 2008.

After Decades of False Starts, a Plan for Peace

Mid-1980s peace talks collapsed after death squads killed at least 3,000 allies of the FARC's political wing. Another effort fell apart in 2002 after the rebels hijacked an airliner to kidnap a senator. The current talks have been going on since 2012 in Havana.

In late June, negotiators announced an agreement on a bilateral cease-fire and a blueprint for how an estimated 7,000 FARC fighters will demobilize and lay down their weapons. Records have also been reached on land reform, combatting drug trafficking, the guerrillas' political participation and punishing war crimes on both sides. The sides formally agreed to the ceasefire and disarmament agreement at a ceremony in Cuba. —AP

HARD HATS BROUGHT TRUMP FAMILY TOGETHER

By Nancy Benac

There's something about bulldozers and hard hats that brings a family together. It worked for Donald Trump and his father. And it worked for Donald Trump and his children. Long before Donald Trump was a presidential candidate, New York real estate mogul and reality TV star, he was Fred Trump's kid, sitting at his dad's knee playing with blocks as his father developed homes and postwar apartment buildings in Brooklyn and Queens.

Fast forward six decades, and Donald Trump's three oldest children, all thirtysomethings, are vice presidents in his real estate empire as well as top advocates for their father in his presidential campaign. Handed down across the generations was a clear set of Trump family values: Work hard, talk big, sell luxury and leave your mark. Like dad, Don Jr, Ivanka and Eric Trump were the boss' kids before they were business executives and campaign adjuncts. They tagged along on their father's visits to Trump construction sites and built Lego skyscrapers on the floor of their dad's office as he negotiated hardball real estate deals.

"This is the third generation of builders," Don Jr once said. "I think we've been programmed genetically with too much ambition to sit back and collect rent for the rest of our lives." It's not just a love for brick and mortar that runs in the family. Fred Trump built his real estate business by dangling dreams of luxury living to the middle class and showcasing champagne-sipping "bikini beauties" in the scoop of a bulldozer, as one old news clip recounted.

A Trump real estate ad from 1949 describes Fred as "acting as a free and rugged individualist to meet the basic need for shelter." Many of his ads end with the tagline "another luxury achievement by Fred C Trump." Old news articles show him extolling the impressive lobbies of his buildings, the popularity of new space-saving efficiency units and special features of Trump properties such as free supervised day camp services for tenants.

Manhattan

Behind the glamorous veneer was a business model that aggressively worked the system. Fred Trump used tax breaks and subsidies to make his projects profitable, a strategy his son has embraced as well. Donald Trump worked with his

father even before he completed college and in no time leapfrogged his dad in the arts of both deal-making and self-promotion. Manhattan beckoned, and the younger Trump answered, against the advice of his more cautious father.

"He was from Brooklyn and Queens, where we did smaller things," Trump said of his father during a town hall in New Hampshire last year. "He said, 'Don't go to Manhattan. That's not our territory.' But he was very proud of me." One of Donald Trump's first big projects: Armed with guaranteed loans from his father and generous tax abatements, Trump transformed the defunct Commodore Hotel into a glittering Grand Hyatt adjoining Grand

The kids are expected to keep managing the Trump Organization should their father win the White House. One of the big head-scratchers about Trump is how the candidate so prone to hype, bluster and insult managed to produce children who seem so even tempered. Trump offered this explanation during a 2004 interview with CNN's Larry King: "I worked at it. I was tough. I was firm with them. I didn't give them too much money." His children largely agree. Don Jr once said: "We weren't spoon fed and handed anything we wanted. If we wanted something, we could have it, but we had to work for it. We always had to have jobs."

For all the talk of familial love, admira-

Nine-year-old Ivanka found out her parents were divorcing when she saw a picture of them with a rip down the center splashed across the front of the New York Post. After their parents split, the children lived with their mother in Trump Tower, tended to by nannies, while their father moved to another floor in the building.

In the heat of the divorce battle, Ivana Trump was quoted as saying of her husband, "Donald has gone weeks on end without seeing the children at all." But Ivanka, in a 2004 interview with New York magazine, said the breakup ultimately brought the three kids closer to their father. "Every morning before school, we'd go downstairs and give him a hug and kiss," she said. "We didn't take his presence for granted anymore."

Maples had already given birth to Trump's fourth child, daughter Tiffany, by the time she and Trump married late in 1993. Tiffany, 22 and a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, was largely raised by her mother in California. She was 5 when her parents divorced in 1999. "I don't know what it's like to have a typical father figure," she told DuJour magazine last year. "He's not the dad who's going to take me to the beach and go swimming, but he's such a motivational person."

A typical father, for one, wouldn't be likely to speculate on the future breast size of his toddler, as Trump once did on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" when he was asked what Tiffany had inherited from her mother. Maples once said of her marriage to Trump: "There weren't any sacred moments. Everything had to be done in front of a camera, or everything was for the business."

Trump's youngest child, son Barron, 10, was born to his third and current wife, Melania, who has largely stayed off the campaign trail to raise their son. "I want to thank Barron for putting up with the fact that I never see him anymore," Trump said in May. Trump's other children are making the most of their moment in the spotlight. There's been speculation that Don Jr has his own political aspirations, and he hasn't ruled out running for office. But his father was clear there will be no 2017 run by Don Jr for New York mayor. The day after she delivered a speech vouching for her dad at the Republican National Convention, Ivanka Trump's fashion line marketed the dress she wore at the podium: "Shop Ivanka's look from her #RNC speech." —AP



In this April 10, 2006 file photo, Donald Trump poses outside his Chicago offices and his 92-storey residential tower under construction on the Chicago River. —AP

Central Station that opened in 1980.

Trump's three oldest children - there are two more from his second and third marriages - clearly inherited their father's and grandfather's love of the deal. They're all executive vice presidents, directing development and acquisitions as a team. At 38, Don Jr's recent work includes hotel and commercial projects in Vancouver, Rio de Janeiro and India. Ivanka, 34, has been overseeing conversion of the Old Post Office Building in Washington into a luxury hotel. Eric, 32, has focused on expanding the Trump collection of golf courses and created the Eric Trump Foundation to benefit St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

tion and discipline, the Trumps are no prototypical Norman Rockwell family. By his children's own admissions, the thrice-married Trump was never the kind of dad who played baseball with them, built sand castles and read bedtime stories. "We were definitely a more go-look-at-property kind of family," Eric once told CNN. Trump himself has struggled to recall when he ever changed a diaper.

Turmoil

And there was plenty of turmoil when Trump's 1990 divorce from first wife, Ivana, played out like a tawdry serial in the New York tabloids and word of his affair with Marla Maples became public.

ROHLER WINS GERMANY'S FIRST JAVELIN GOLD IN 80 YEARS



RIO DE JANEIRO: Thomas Rohler offered Germany a crumb of comfort after their football team lost to Brazil in the Olympic final by winning his country's first javelin gold in 80 years. The unheralded Rohler launched a best of 90.30 metres for Germany's first in the javelin since Gerhard Stock won in the 1936 Games in Berlin. Kenya's reigning world champion Julius Yego took silver with 88.24m, while defending Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago claimed bronze with 85.83m in a high-class competition. "We saw the end of the game in the warm-up area," Rohler said of the football game, with Neymar scoring the decisive penalty as Brazil beat Germany 5-4 on penalties after the game ended 1-1 at the end of regulation time. "I'm sorry for Germany but I'm happy for Brazil." Turning to the competition, Rohler said: "I woke up with the right feeling this morning. I was feeling maybe it's the right day for me. — AFP

CHINESE FIRM 'EYES LIVERPOOL FC STAKE'

LONDON: Premier League giants Liverpool are the target of an 800 million pounds (\$1 billion, 924 million euros) takeover bid backed by the Chinese government, British newspaper the Sunday Times reported. China Everbright, a state-backed financial firm, are leading the bid, backed by the country's main sovereign wealth fund, the China Investment Corporation (CIC), the paper said. Talks between the Chinese group and Liverpool's American owners, the Fenway Sports Group (FSG), are ongoing, the Sunday Times said. But a senior Liverpool source told AFP that although the club was open to outside investment, FSG was not in talks and the club was not the subject of a bid. On Friday, Liverpool chairman Tom Werner said the club was "not for sale", but admitted FSG were open to the idea of selling a stake. FSG bought Liverpool for around 300 million pounds in 2010. China has been making inroads in English football in recent months. Earlier this month, Liverpool's Premier League rivals West Bromwich Albion announced a deal to sell the club to a Chinese investment group headed by entrepreneur Guochuan Lai. —AFP

BRAZIL HERO NEYMAR STEPS DOWN AS CAPTAIN



RIO DE JANEIRO: Barcelona star Neymar said he will step down as Brazil captain after leading the Olympic Games' hosts to their first ever football gold medal. "It was an honour to be captain, but from today I am no longer captain," Neymar told SporTV after scoring the winning penalty in a 5-4 shootout win over Germany. "It was an honour to be captain, but from today I stop being captain. I will send a message to [senior coach] Tite that, from now, he can look for another captain." Neymar, who has won the Confederations Cup with Brazil and the Champions League with Barcelona, said: "I do not like to put one title above the other—every competition I contest and win is important. "Of course, it had great importance to Brazil and thank God we did it after a lot of struggling, work and concentration." And he thanked his family, friends and colleague, adding: "No one wins alone." Neymar had scored a free kick to give Brazil the lead in the gold medal match, which ended 1-1 after extra time. — Agencies

FINNEGAN TAKES NO-HITTER INTO 7TH, REDS BEAT DODGERS

CINCINNATI: Brandon Finnegan took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Adam Duvall and Jose Peraza each hit home runs in returns to the lineup and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 11-1 on Saturday night. Adrian Gonzalez singled to center field leading off the seventh to break up Finnegan's no-hit bid, and that was the only hit against the 23-year-old lefty. Finnegan (8-9) allowed two walks and had eight strikeouts, one short of tying his career high, while throwing 96 pitches over seven innings. He also doubled and scored twice while the Reds extended their winning streak to a season-high five games. Finnegan did not return after the game was delayed in the middle of the seventh for 1 hour, 19 minutes because of rain. Cincinnati had a season-high 18 hits, including three each from Peraza and Eugenio Suarez. Dodgers starter Brett Anderson (0-2) allowed six runs in three innings before being pulled with a blister on his left index finger.

his first major league start and help New York beat Los Angeles. Brian McCann went 2 for 4 with two RBIs and a run, Starlin Castro went 2 for 4 with two runs and Aaron Judge drove in two. Gary Sanchez hit his fifth home run in six games, a two-out solo homer in the first. Los Angeles' Albert Pujols hit his 583rd home run in the ninth inning, tying former St. Louis teammate Mark McGwire for 10th on the career list. Cessa (3-0) allowed three hits, struck out five and walked one. He struggled just twice, giving up back-to-back two-out singles in the third and hitting Mike Trout in the sixth. Ricky Nolasco (4-11) allowed five runs in 6-1/3 innings.

Kansas City beat Minnesota to extend its winning streak to seven games. The Royals' string is their best since they won seven straight in April 2015. The World Series champions have won 12 of 14 to move back into the AL wild-card race. Gordon has homered five times in five games. He connected in the fourth inning and again in the fifth for his fourth career multihomer game. Kennedy (8-9) gave up four hits, walked none and struck out six. Salvador Perez and Gordon hit back-to-back home runs in a four-run fifth, chasing Hector Santiago (10-8).

RAYS 8, RANGERS 2
Evan Longoria and Luke Maile homered, Jake Odorizzi won his fifth game since the All-Star break and Tampa Bay ended Texas' four-game winning streak. Odorizzi (8-5) is 5-0 with a 1.64 ERA in seven starts since the All-Star break. Adrian Beltre and Elvis Andrus had two

hits each for the AL West-leading Rangers. The Rays scored in each of the first two innings off starter A.J. Griffin (5-3). Matt Duffy drove in a run with a two-out single in the first, and Maile made it 2-0 with his first career home run in the second. Longoria's 28th homer made it 3-0 in the sixth. —AP

ASTROS 12, ORIOLES 2

Jason Castro homered and drove in four runs in Houston's second straight blowout victory over struggling Baltimore. Alex Bregman and George Springer also homered for the Astros. They beat Baltimore 15-8 on Friday night to snap a five-game losing streak. Bregman got this rout started with a two-run homer in the first inning off Chris Tillman (15-5). Houston increased its lead to 6-0 in the third and went up 10-1 in the sixth. Chris Davis homered in a fourth straight game and Steve Pearce also went deep for the Orioles. But Baltimore has dropped eight of 12 overall to fall into the third place in the AL East. Baltimore pitchers combined to allow a season-high 10 walks. Utility infielder Ryan Flaherty worked the ninth

PHILLIES 4, CARDINALS 2

Cesar Hernandez homered, doubled and singled, and Jeremy Hellickson pitched seven strong innings in Philadelphia's 4-2 victory over St. Louis. Maikel Franco had two hits, including a double and the winning RBI, and Aaron Altherr homered for the Phillies. They have hit home runs in 14 straight games. Jeremy Hazelbaker homered and Jhonny Peralta had three hits for St. Louis, which had won five in a row. The Cardinals are 1-1/2 games head of Miami for the second wild-card spot in the National League. St. Louis fell short of setting a major league record of 10 straight games with multiple home runs. The Cardinals tied the mark with a pair of homers Friday night. Hellickson (10-7) skipped his last start because of back tightness. The right-hander looked healthy and sharp,

CUBS 9, ROCKIES 2

Kris Bryant hit a long homer and drove in four runs, Ben Zobrist had three hits and also went deep, and Chicago routed Colorado. Miguel Montero had three hits and drove in three for the Cubs, who spoiled the major league debut of Rockies starter Jeff Hoffman. Trevor Cahill (3-3) got the win with 4-2/3 innings in relief of spot starter Mike Montgomery. Hoffman (0-1), a former first-



CINCINNATI: Scott Schebler #43 of the Cincinnati Reds is tagged out at second base by Justin Turner #10 of the Los Angeles Dodgers after Schebler tried to stretch a single into a double in the third inning at Great American Ball Park yesterday in Cincinnati, Ohio. — AFP

round pick who was acquired a year ago as part of the deal that sent Troy Tulowitzki to Toronto, started off well but ran into trouble the second time through against the NL Central leaders. Bryant made it 7-0 in the fifth with his 31st homer, a three-run drive that went an estimated 469 feet to dead center. Montgomery didn't give up a hit until Nick Hundley's one-out homer in the fifth made it 7-1. Cahill relieved Montgomery, who left after throwing 60 pitches. The Cubs added a run in the eighth and another on Zobrist's 14th homer in the ninth.

METS 9, GIANTS 5

Yoenis Cespedes hit two long home runs and an RBI double in his second game back from the disabled list, boosting Bartolo Colon and New York past San Francisco. The Mets had lost five of six before topping the team that began the day leading the NL West. The Giants dropped to 11-22 since the All-Star break. Cespedes, who'd been out since Aug. 4 with a strained right quadriceps, drove in three runs. He has 24 homers this season. The slugger's shot off Matt Moore (7-10) in the third inning went 457 feet, according to Statcast.com. Cespedes added a 418-footer off reliever Jake Peavy in the seventh. Alejandro De Aza hit a three-run homer in a four-run sixth that stretched the Mets' lead to 7-2. Colon (11-7) allowed two runs, scattering nine hits and a walk in 6-1/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 6, ATHLETICS 2

Chris Sale pitched eight scoreless innings for his first victory in 49 days, Jose Abreu homered and Chicago beat Oakland. Sale (15-6) was the majors' first 14-game winner and the AL starter in the All-Star Game, but the lefty had gone 0-4 in six starts, interrupted by a five-day suspension for slicing up throwback uniforms he didn't want to wear. Sale allowed three hits and retired the last seven batters, five by strikeout, while throwing a season-high 120 pitches. The White Sox scored four runs with two outs, including Abreu's solo shot that just cleared the eight-foot wall in right in the first inning. Melky Cabrera added an RBI double in the second and a run-scoring single in the fourth off Ross Detwiler (1-2). Oakland's Danny Valencia homered in Oakland's two-run ninth off Nate Jones before David Robertson earned his 31st save.

YANKEES 5, ANGELS 1

Luis Cessa pitched six scoreless innings to win

inning, giving up two runs and three hits. Mike Fiers (9-6) had little trouble in his first career appearance against the Orioles. The right-hander went seven innings, allowing one run and five hits.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, PADRES 1

Robbie Ray struck out a career-high 13 and gave up just one hit in seven innings, pitching Arizona past San Diego. There were only seven total hits in the game, four by Arizona. The Diamondbacks scored two unearned runs, helped by a pair of throwing errors by pitcher Clayton Richard (0-3). Ray (7-11) featured a fastball in the upper 90s mph. He overpowered the Padres until the fifth inning when Patrick Kivlehan, called up from Triple-A El Paso before the game, launched a 451-foot home run for his first major league hit. Arizona used four relievers to close it out. Daniel Hudson induced three infield popups to escape a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the eighth, and Enrique Burgos earned his first save of the season.

MARLINS 3, PIRATES 1

Xavier Scruggs hit his first major league home run and David Phelps pitched six scoreless innings to help Miami beat Pittsburgh. Miguel Rojas scored on an error in the third, and Ichiro Suzuki doubled down the right field line in the fourth - for his 3,008th hit in the majors to move into 28th place on the career list - ahead of Scruggs' shot into the bleachers in left field. Phelps (7-6) allowed two hits and two walks with nine strikeouts in his fourth start of the season. Fernando Rodney got the last three outs for his sixth save with the Marlins and 23rd save overall. Chad Kuhl (3-1) gave up three runs and five hits in six innings.

MARINERS 8, BREWERS 2

Felix Hernandez pitched eight strong innings, Mike Zunino homered and drove in three runs and Seattle sent Milwaukee to its sixth straight loss. Hernandez (8-4) gave up two runs and seven hits, striking out eight and walking one to improve to 4-0 in seven starts since coming off the disabled list on July 20. Steve Cishek, who had lost his closer's role, pitched a perfect ninth. Seattle pulled one game behind Baltimore for the American League's second wild card. Zunino and Leonys Martin hit back to back homers off Willy Peralta (5-9) to open the seventh, stretching Seattle's lead to 4-0.

ROYALS 10, TWINS 0

Alex Gordon homered twice and had a double, Ian Kennedy pitched eight sharp innings and

allowing two runs on seven hits with eight strikeouts and one walk. Jeanmar Gomez pitched a scoreless ninth for his 33rd save in 37 opportunities. Luke Weaver (0-1) was the loser.

RED SOX 3, TIGERS 2

David Ortiz homered after being honored by the Tigers and Boston beat Detroit on a rainy night. Ortiz was given a pregame tribute, then hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning. James McCann and J.D. Martinez homered for the Tigers, who have lost 10 of 13. The start was delayed 80 minutes by storms that moved in during the afternoon, and another heavy downpour interrupted the game for more than an hour after the fifth inning. Drew Pomeranz (2-2) gave up one run and four hits in five innings. Craig Kimbrel got the last four outs for his 22nd save. Justin Upton doubled off the top of the wall in center field with two out in the ninth, but Casey McGehee struck out to end the game at 12:17 am. Daniel Norris (1-2) was the loser.

NATIONALS 11, BRAVES 9

Ryan Zimmerman homered and had three hits in his return from the disabled list, and Washington used an eight-run fourth inning to take control before holding off Atlanta. Daniel Murphy and Trea Turner hit homers in Washington's big fourth inning against Tyrell Jenkins (2-4). The Nationals trailed 3-1 before setting a season high for runs in an inning and taking a 9-3 lead. Washington set a Nationals record with nine hits in the inning, including eight straight, and had 17 hits in the game. Max Scherzer (13-7) allowed four runs in 6-1/3 innings. Mark Melancon gave up a two-run single to Chase d'Arnaud, cutting the lead to two, before recording the final out for his 36th save.

BLUE JAYS 6, INDIANS 5

Edwin Encarnacion homered, Roberto Osuna bounced back from a nightmarish outing to record the save and Toronto beat Cleveland. Toronto was stunned Friday night on Tyler Naquin's game-ending inside-the-park home run off Osuna that gave the Indians a 3-2 victory. The latest matchup between division leaders also had plenty of drama, with Osuna getting his 28th save by retiring Naquin on a groundout to end it. Encarnacion's leadoff homer in the fifth, his 35th of the season, put Toronto back on top. Joe Biagini (4-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Josh Tomlin (11-7) allowed all six Toronto runs.

MLB Results/Standings

NY Mets 9, San Francisco 5; Tampa Bay 8, Texas 2; Houston 12, Baltimore 2; Miami 3, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 2; Cincinnati 11, LA Dodgers 1; Chicago White Sox 6, Oakland 2; Toronto 6, Cleveland 5; Washington 11, Atlanta 9; Kansas City 10, Minnesota 0; Chicago Cubs 9, Colorado 2; Arizona 2, San Diego 1.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
	W	L	PCT		W	L	PCT
Toronto	70	53	.569	Washington	73	49	.598
Boston	69	53	.566	Miami	64	59	.520
Baltimore	67	55	.549	NY Mets	61	62	.496
NY Yankees	63	59	.516	Philadelphia	58	66	.468
Tampa Bay	51	70	.421	Atlanta	44	79	.358
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	70	51	.579	Chicago Cubs	78	44	.639
Detroit	64	59	.520	St. Louis	65	57	.533
Kansas City	63	60	.512	Pittsburgh	62	58	.517
Chicago W Sox	58	64	.475	Cincinnati	53	69	.434
Minnesota	49	74	.398	Milwaukee	52	70	.426
Western Division				Western Division			
Texas	73	51	.589	San Francisco	68	55	.553
Seattle	66	56	.541	LA Dodgers	67	55	.549
Houston	63	60	.512	Colorado	59	64	.480
Oakland	53	70	.431	San Diego	52	71	.423
LA Angels	51	72	.415	Arizona	51	72	.415

BRITON CRUTCHLOW WINS RAIN-HIT CZECH MOTO GP

BRNO: Britain's Cal Crutchlow on a Honda took his maiden MotoGP win as he dominated a rain-hit race at Brno in the Czech Republic yesterday.

Italian legend Valentino Rossi claimed second on his Yamaha after finishing more than seven seconds behind the Briton, ahead of championship leader Marc Marquez on a Honda.

With seven races to go, the result leaves Marquez at the top of the overall standings on 197 points, 53 ahead of Rossi. Reigning world champion Jorge Lorenzo dropped to third overall, on 138 points, after finishing 17th at Brno and a lap behind as the victim of a poor strategy.

"We did the best job we could today and I'm really, really pleased for my team," said the 30-year-old Crutchlow, of the independent LCR Honda team. "I smashed the bike yesterday and honestly they didn't leave the circuit till midnight last night. That was the best way to repay them today." But, kissing his phone after calling his wife who had given birth to their first child on August 2, he confessed a MotoGP win was not everything. "I expected probably a different feeling but with Lucy giving birth the other week that was the best feeling in the world," said Crutchlow. "Don't get me wrong, winning a race is fantastic but I got the best present a couple of weeks ago."

In wet conditions following several hours of steady rain, pole-sitter Marquez took an early lead but was soon replaced by Ducati's Andrea Iannone, the winner from Austria a week ago.

GAMBLE PAYS OFF

Capitalising on his choice of hard-option



BRNO: Moto GP riders Valentino Rossi of Italy, Cal Crutchlow of Great Britain, and Marc Marquez of Spain, from left to right, pose on the podium of the Czech Republic Motorcycle Grand Prix in Brno, Czech Republic, yesterday. Crutchlow won the race, Rossi was second and Marquez third. — AP

"But lap by lap, the rear was coming better."

"It was a great race, I'm very happy for these 20 points also because I am second in the championship and I think today we did a good job and we made the right choice."

Marquez said he was happy with his ninth podium finish in 11 races this season, although he admitted he had to manage his soft tyres. "In the end we lose only four points with Valentino (but) we increased the advantage with Jorge," said the 2013 and 2014 world champion. Crutchlow is the first Briton to win an elite-class Grand Prix since Barry Sheene in 1981.

France's Loris Baz took fourth, his best ever MotoGP result, ahead of Spain's Hector Barbera and Ireland's Eugene Laverty.

In heavy rain earlier on Sunday, Germany's Jonas Folger took his first win of the season in the Moto2 category while Briton John McPhee earned his maiden Moto3 win. — AFP

MARSEILLE LOSE AGAIN, POGBA SEES SAINT-ETIENNE WIN

PARIS: Troubled French giants Marseille slumped to a 2-1 loss at Guingamp in Ligue 1 yesterday, leaving the nine-time champions still searching for their first win of the new season. Meanwhile, Manchester United star Paul Pogba was in the crowd in Saint-Etienne to watch his brother Florentin turn out for Les Verts in a 3-1 win over Montpellier.

In Brittany, Yannick Salibur struck after just 32 seconds with Jeremy Sorbon netting Guingamp's second shortly after half-time as the hosts withstood late Marseille pressure.

Substitute Florian Thauvin pulled a

goal back on 78 minutes with a low long-range effort, but Guingamp this time held on having thrown away a two-goal lead in last week's 2-2 draw at Monaco.

Lassana Diarra again skippered Marseille despite swirling speculation about his future, with Galatasaray the latest side to be linked with a move for the France midfielder before the transfer window closes.

But the visitors were rocked inside the opening minute as Marcus Coco burst into the left-hand side of the area and crossed for Salibur to volley past Yohann Pele. The Marseille goalkeeper made an

excellent stop to prevent Jimmy Briand doubling Guingamp's lead on the quarter-hour, while Bafetimbi Gomis stabbed wide at the other end after a devilish ball in from Bouna Sarr.

Moustapha Diallo blazed over from Jordan Ikoko's clever backcut early in the second half, but Sorbon made no mistake when Lucas Deaux picked him out in a similar position on 58 minutes.

Thauvin gave Franck Passi's side hope when he drove the ball beyond Karl-Johan Johnsson from distance, but the Swedish international ensured there was no way back for Marseille by divert-

ing over from Aaron Leya Iseka in stoppage time.

At the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, the world's most expensive player Pogba who started for United in their Premier League win over Southampton on Friday — was there to support his brother Florentin, the Guinea defender who turned 26 on Friday.

The elder Pogba played all 90 minutes as Saint-Etienne came from behind after Steve Mounie put Montpellier ahead midway through the first half.

Kevin Monnet-Paquet equalised seconds after the restart before youngster

Dylan Saint-Louis scored his first Ligue 1 goal and Slovenia striker Robert Beric came off the bench to clinch the points late on.

Champions Paris Saint-Germain host promoted Metz in Sunday's late game, while Alexandre Lacazette made it five goals in two games with a brace in Lyon's 2-0 victory over Caen on Friday. Monaco warmed up for the second leg of their Champions League play-off against Villarreal, into which they take a 2-1 aggregate lead, by winning 1-0 at Nantes as Gabriel Boschilia netted the only goal from a first-half free-kick. — AFP



LONDON: West Ham United's English midfielder Michail Antonio (R) heads the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Bournemouth at The London Stadium, in east London yesterday. — AFP

ANTONIO GIVES WEST HAM OLYMPIC CHEER



LONDON: Michail Antonio made West Ham United feel at home in the first Premier League match at their new London Stadium as his late header clinched a 1-0 win over 10-man Bournemouth yesterday. After 112 years playing just down the road at Upton Park, West Ham have entered a new era this season following their move to the venue used for athletics at the 2012 Olympics.

Bilic's team had already played two matches at the London Stadium, beating Slovenia's NK Domzale in the Europa League and losing to Italian champions Juventus in a friendly.

But this was the real curtain raiser for the east Londoners' fancy new digs and Antonio's goal five minutes from full-time ensured the 56,977-strong crowd could start to get comfortable in their new surroundings. Slaven Bilic's injury-hit side were well below their best for long periods, but they pounced after Bournemouth midfielder Harry Arter was sent off in the closing stages for

two bookings. West Ham's new home is the 55th ground to host Premier League action and the third largest with a capacity that can rise to 60,000 later this season. However, with West Ham's fans still getting used to their new location, there was a subdued feel to the crowd and it remains to be seen if Upton Park's vociferous atmosphere can be transformed to their cavernous, but slightly soulless, abode.

Deprived of Dimitri Payet's creativity and Andy Carroll's aggression, West Ham's fatigued players looked equally unsure of themselves. Bilic's side are in the midst of a hectic start to the season—this was their fifth game already—and they only arrived back in London in the early hours of Friday morning after a 1-1 draw against Romania's Astra Giurgiu in the Europa League play-offs.

Frustrated by Diego Costa's late winner for Chelsea in their Premier League opener at Stamford Bridge on Monday, West Ham were also dealing with a host of injuries to key players including Andre Ayew, Payet and Carroll.

TURNING POINT

Their sporadic threats came mostly from Gokhan Tore, who curled over from the edge of the penalty area, then smashed a free-kick into the Bournemouth wall.

Antonio scuffed wide at the end of a rare incisive West Ham attack and it was 39 minutes

before Bournemouth goalkeeper Artur Boruc was finally called into action to keep out an Enner Valencia strike at his near post. Inspired by Callum Wilson's hat-trick, Bournemouth romped to a 4-3 win at Upton Park last season.

After last weekend's loss to Manchester United they were mainly concerned with staying solid at the back this time and a limp first half was summed up when Ryan Fraser curled their first corner straight out of play. There was marginally more urgency about Eddie Howe's team in the second half and Josh King's powerful 25-yard strike brought a fine save from West Ham goalkeeper Adrian.

Tore volleyed into the side-netting from Antonio's cross as West Ham tried to regain the initiative, but Bilic was unimpressed and introduced on-loan Argentine forward Jonathan Calleri for his debut in place of the ineffective Valencia.

The turning point came when Arter, already on a booking, was dismissed in the 77th minute for a second yellow card after hauling down Cheikhou Kouyate on the halfway line.

Suddenly, West Ham found more space in attacking areas and they snatched the points in the 85th minute.

Impressive Turkey winger Tore baffled Adam Smith with some nifty footwork before lofting a cross to the far post, where Antonio rose highest to head home from close-range. — AFP

AUSSIERS BEAT SRI LANKA BY 3 WICKETS IN 1ST ODI

COLOMBO: Half-centuries from Aaron Finch and skipper Steve Smith helped Australia pull off a tricky chase to defeat a resilient Sri Lanka by three wickets in the first one-day international in Colombo yesterday.

Australia, who suffered their first series whitewash against the hosts in the three Tests, chased down 228 in 46.5 overs at the R. Premadasa Stadium to lead the five-match ODI series 1-0.

Pacers James Faulkner and Mitchell Starc, who became the fastest to reach 100 wickets in his 52nd match, also played their part with seven wickets between them after Australia elected to bowl first.

Opener Finch, who scored a quickfire 56, gave Australia a brisk start despite the early wicket of David Warner, who was out for eight after a scratchy 17-ball stay at the crease.

Finch took on the Sri Lankan bowlers with ease in the first 10 overs of the mandatory powerplay as he regularly cleared the infield to notch up seven boundaries and two sixes during his 46-ball knock.

Finch, who registered his 12th ODI half-century, fell to debutant left-arm spinner Amila Aponso after edging the ball to Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Mathews at first

slip. On-field umpire Aleem Dar ruled Finch not out before Sri Lanka successfully reviewed the decision in their favour much to the disappointment of the batsman. Mathews though could not hold on to a sharp chance at slip, giving Smith a new life at 15 off Dilruwan Perera and the batsman made the most of it.

Another debutant spinner Lakshan Sandakan got his maiden ODI wicket in Matthew Wade, who had worked hard for his 26 which came off 34 deliveries to put Australia in trouble at 128/3.

But Smith, who top-scored with a dogged 58, put together a 62-run partnership with George Bailey (39) to thwart Sri Lanka's spin attack on a sluggish pitch which was taking vicious turn.

Off-spinner Dilruwan, who ended with three wickets, got Smith in the 38th over with Australia needing another 38 to win the match. The visitors lost three more wickets after that but bowling heroes Starc, on five, and Faulkner, also on five, remained unbeaten as Australia recorded their highest ODI run chase in Sri Lanka.

Scores:

Sri Lanka: 227 for 8 wickets in 50 overs.
Australia: 228 for 7 wickets in 46.5 overs. — AFP



COLOMBO: Australian cricketer Aaron Finch (L) and Australian cricket captain Steven Smith (R) run between the wickets during the first One Day International (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

KERBER REACHES FINAL, WIN AWAY FROM UNSEATING WILLIAMS

MASON: Angelique Kerber reached the Western & Southern Open final Saturday, leaving her one win away from unseating Serena Williams at No. 1. Kerber took control after a 33-minute rain delay in the first set and beat Simona Halep 6-3, 6-4 in humid, windy conditions, putting her within reach of the world's top ranking. Williams has led the WTA rankings for 183 consecutive weeks, the second-longest such stretch.

A win today over 15th-seeded Karolina Pliskova would move Kerber to the top spot in next week's rankings. Williams dropped out at the start of the tournament because of an inflamed shoulder, leaving her ranking vulnerable.

Andy Murray extended his successful summer - another Wimbledon title, another Olympic gold medal - by reaching the final as well, giving him a chance for a third Cincinnati championship.

More is at stake in the women's title match. Kerber has tried to avoid thinking about No. 1 because she didn't want to put any more pressure on herself. Now, there's no avoiding it.

"I've had a lot of ups and downs the last few years and a lot of experiences from which I've learned," Kerber said. "I

think I'm one of the best tennis players.

"One match away, still a long way to go." She'd become only the second German woman to hold the top spot. Steffi Graf's reign at No. 1 ended in 1997. It would be Kerber's first title in Cincinnati - she lost her other finals appearance in 2012. Halep was on a hot streak, winning back-to-back titles at Bucharest and Montreal. She'd also beaten Kerber in their four matches on hard courts this season, although Kerber won at Wimbledon. Kerber led 4-3 in the first set when rain forced the delay. She won eight of the next nine points to take the first set, then pulled ahead 4-0 in the second set, pumping her right arm in celebration as the games piled up.

Pliskova advanced to the championship match for the first time by beating Garbine Muguruza 6-1, 6-3 in an earlier match. She was well aware of the stakes yesterday.

"I know it," she said. "For me, doesn't really mean anything. For her, yes. I don't know if she would be a little bit stressed or something, but I would love to have her as a No. 1 after a few years. But I'll do anything for her not to get there, if she wins (in the semifinals)." — AP

TWO-GOAL STUANI GIVES MIDDLESBROUGH WIN



SUNDERLAND: Middlesbrough beat Sunderland 2-1 away thanks to a first-half double from Uruguay striker Cristhian Stuani in the first Premier League meeting between the north-east rivals for almost eight years.

The visitors withstood sustained pressure after the interval when Sunderland hit back through Patrick van Aanholt and then pushed for the winner, but Boro held on to record their first victory since returning to the top flight this season.

"The timing of the second goal was very important," said Middlesbrough winger Stewart Downing. "We defended well throughout the team but are disappointed we conceded."

"Not many players in our team have played much in the Premier League. It was a team effort today."

Stuani opened the scoring with a piece of individual brilliance after 12 minutes, firing a long-range shot from outside the area over the head of goalkeeper Vito Mannone.

Then, just before the interval, the 29-year-old rounded off a well-worked team goal after Adam Forshaw combined with Alvaro Negredo to split the home defence open.

Sunderland, who lost central defender John

O'Shea to injury in the first half, refused to buckle and fully deserved their goal when Van Aanholt struck from inside the area after keeper Brad Guzan could only parry a shot from Duncan Watmore.

But they could not prise Boro open again and David Moyes's side, who featured all three of their new signings from Manchester United,

remain without a point after two games while Middlesbrough have four from their opening matches. Van Aanholt refused to be downhearted. "I think the way we played in the second half, (we) should not be scared of anyone," said the Dutchman. "The season has just started I am very positive we are capable of winning games." — Reuters



SUNDERLAND: Middlesbrough goalkeeper Brad Guzan, right, spills the ball but Sunderland's Donald Love cannot score, during their teams' Premier League match at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England, yesterday. — AP



SELECTING 6 NUMBERS TURNED GB INTO OLYMPIC SUPERPOWER

IN CHINA, FORGIVING PUBLIC EMBRACES FEWER GOLD MEDALS

BEIJING: In a country long focused on bringing home as many Olympic gold medals as possible, this year's haul isn't what China expected. When China's 416-athlete delegation set off for Rio, state sports officials were banking on 30 to 36 gold medals. As the games end, it had won just 24 for the worst showing since Atlanta in 1996.

Lagging in third place, China's total is a far cry from the country's 51-gold performance in Beijing that topped the gold medal chart.

But so what?

The once-feverish obsession with the gold tally has slowly subsided among the Chinese public, which has shown more interest this year in lavishing adoration on athletes with personalities, such as bronze medalist Fu Yuanhui, rather than counting medals.

"Finally, the public desire for golds has returned to normal," said Lu Yuanzhen, a professor of sports at South China Normal University who has long argued that a mature nation should have a more relaxed attitude toward wins and losses in athletic competitions. "The ordinary Chinese people have become more indifferent to the medal counts now they understand Olympic golds bear little impact on their real lives," Lu told The Associated Press.

For decades, the Communist state has rallied national unity and pride on the country's athletic performances on the world stage, especially in the Olympics. The entire country was moved to tears when Xu Haifeng, a pistol shooter, won the first gold Olympic medal for Communist China in Los Angeles in 1984. It was considered a sign that China finally was able to claim a place among world powers, a huge boost to national pride.

The fever only grew as Beijing sought better Olympic performances and the ultimate goal of hosting the games. The Olympics was a national obsession, and gold medalists were household names and rewarded generously.

China's gold medal tally climbed to 28 in Sydney, 32 in Athens and 51 in Beijing. In London, Chinese athletes still took away 38 gold medals and were second only to U.S. Olympians.

But following the climax in Beijing, public obsession with Olympic golds began to fade, and voices of criticism grew louder against the state-run sports system credited with the country's stellar Olympic performances.

Critics argue the brutal system has sacrificed vast numbers of rank-and-file athletes, encouraged dishonesty - such as doping, age alteration and game rigging - in the name of national honor, and distanced sports from the public. When this year's games began in Rio, state media lamented the lack of golds on the opening day, but Chinese sports fans stayed nonchalant. They were more interested in chasing athletes oozing with personality.

The most telling example is Fu Yuanhui, a female swimmer who overnight became a social media sweetheart for claiming she had used "primeval force" in a semifinal. She eventually won a bronze. Shaped by the social media instead of the state parlance, Fu's vernacular resonated with ordinary Chinese people, who were already bored with empty talks.

Ning Zetao, another swimmer, came home empty-handed from Rio but still grabbed headlines because of his undiminished popularity back in China. And Chinese social media was full of encouraging words when swimmer Sun Yang failed to qualify for the 1,500-meter free style final, a sharp contrast to the days when the Chinese public hurled hurtful words at athletes failing to cinch the gold. The swimmers got a welcome from thousands of fans at a Beijing airport. Fu was scared. Ning's appearance caused congestion, and besieged by fans seeking photographs and autographs, she could barely move.

At recently as 2008, the public booed hurdler Liu Xiang when he could not get off the starting line in Beijing because of injuries. "The public has gone to another extreme - tolerance of non-champions and even adoration of them," wrote Li Ruiyi, a veteran Chinese sports writer in a commentary on the news site ifeng.com. Under the most pressure are Chinese gymnasts, who came home with two bronzes this year, the worst performance ever in 32 years.

It is also the first time that Team China, a long-time powerhouse in gymnastics, did not win a single gold since China returned to the Olympics in 1984. For the past several years, China's gymnastics officials have worried that the state system is running out of steam because the national team has a dwindling pool from which to recruit top talent, a consequence of isolating young talent in the state system. Even if there is more acceptance that every year won't bring a haul of gold, there is still a sense of alarm, and many don't like that China sits behind the United States and Great Britain in the race for golds.

There are also whispers that Japan, the upcoming host of the 2020 Summer Olympics Games, could pose a threat to China. That prospect is likely to rekindle the country's nationalistic sentiments, because of long-time animosity toward the neighboring country that invaded China and shamed the Middle Kingdom in the early 20th century.

"If the Chinese delegation's achievements should indeed decline at this year's Rio Olympic games, it begs some serious thoughts on the part of China's sports circle," wrote Liu Ge, a state media commentator in the party-run Global Times. "The public can accept some mistakes and some failures, but the tolerance over the loss of one gold does not mean that China's sports circle should not care about the overall haul of golds and medals." —AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: The path to the Olympic podium for British athletes begins with the selection of six numbers. Every time a Briton fills in a lottery slip and hands over two pounds (\$2.60), the country moves closer to another Olympic medal.

And medals of every hue are now in the possession of athletes sporting the union jack flag. It wasn't always like this. The Olympics used to be just like the World Cup for Britain's soccer teams: Stories of near-misses, plucky losers and embarrassment.

But funding from the National Lottery has fueled the transformation of British sports from the nadir of the 1996 Olympics. Britain left Atlanta with a single gold among 15 medals, stranded in 36th place in the standings. Team GB, as it's now known, ranked second in the medals table as the Rio de Janeiro Games entered their final day.

It's been the best games for Britain since 1908, with China squeezed out of second place and only the United States ahead. Jack Laugher and Chris Mears claimed Britain's first-ever diving gold and Max Whitlock became the country's first Olympic gymnastics champion. All 14 British cyclists who competed won medals. The swimmers enjoyed their best games in more than 30 years.

"This is not happening by chance," Simon Timson, performance director at UK Sport, said. "This is success by design. It's the result of 18 years of consistent, coherent and targeted National Lottery investment."

"The partnership we have with the British Olympic Association and the money we've invested into the Team GB's final preparations is one of those elements of success by design." UK Sport is the government agency that allocates cash from the state and the lottery to Olympic and Paralympic sport.

The lottery was launched in 1994, two years before the debacle of Atlanta left British athletes scurrying back into Britain with no fanfare. The discussion now is where to hold the victory parade. Manchester in northern England is displacing London for the bus tour this year, a chance to display the gold, silver and bronze medals that have briefly reunited a nation divided by the referendum vote to leave the European Union in June.

It was a British prime minister whose reign was defined at the time by divisions over Europe who created the lottery that spurred the sporting success. John Major's "greatest achievement was to change the face of sport" in the country, IAAF President Sebastian Coe, the double-Olympic middle-distance champion,



RIO DE JANEIRO: Britain's Morgan Lake competes in the Women's High Jump Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. —AFP

has said. In the last year, 20 percent of lottery funds were injected into sports.

"The whole idea of the lottery was to create the opportunities for Cinderella sports (where competitors achieve more than expected) to be properly funded and I think by and large it has done well," said David Mellor, who was sports minister in the Major administration in the 1990s.

For Mellor, Whitlock is the type of person "who would have gone to his grave 30 years ago never knowing he had that talent." Investing in talent searches, facilities and coaching allows Britain to unearth those whose sporting ability never found a competitive outlet. Those who make it into Team GB then benefit from the expertise of the leading coaches and world-class facilities. Before the lottery, many representing Britain had to scrape a living to fund their sporting dreams.

As funding has increased so has Britain's medal haul: In the buildup to the 2000 Sydney Games, 58.9 million pounds (\$77 million) was invested in 13 sports. Britain finished 10th with 28 medals, including 11 golds.

Before the 2004 Athens Games, 71 million pounds was invested in 16 sports, producing another 10th place finish but with 30 medals including nine golds.

Hiking the cash to 235 million pounds across 27 sports, once UK Sport became responsible for investment in development, led to a surge to fourth place in Beijing in 2008. Among 47 medals, 19 were gold.

Much was focused on a successful London Games in 2012. The athletes justified the 264 million pounds spread across 27 sports by securing third spot ahead of Russia with 65 medals, including 29 golds.

"Most nations invest in two- or four-year

projects," Timson said. "We invest in athletes and coaches and support staff in eight-year pathways."

The cash isn't dispersed frivolously. Sports that don't meet pre-games medal targets can have their funding cut. There is criticism of a system that churns out cash to produce results at the elite level, rather than targeting more hand-outs at grassroots facilities to boost grassroots participation.

"A relatively small number of sports feature regularly on prime time TV, so for many the Olympic Games is the moment that catapults them onto the screens of the nation," Sport England chief executive Jennie Price said. "We need to capitalize on that."

Britain used to rule through the world through its empire. The former imperial power is showing itself to be a force again internationally - at the Olympics. —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medallists China's Zhang Changning poses for a selfie with fans after the women's Gold Medal volleyball match at Maracanazinho Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. —AFP

HEROES' WELCOME FOR VICTORIOUS FIJIANS

SUVA: Fiji's gold-medal-winning sevens rugby team received a tumultuous heroes' welcome when they returned home from Rio yesterday to launch two days of celebrations. Thousands of fans lined the flag-bedecked streets of Nadi to catch a glimpse of their idols as the team made their way from the airport to an official welcome at a packed Prince Charles Park. The players, wearing their gold medals round their necks, were introduced to the ecstatic crowd as "the greatest rugby sevens team in the world".

Fiji's 43-7 trouncing of Great Britain in the sevens final at Rio delivered the South Pacific island nation its first ever Olympic medal. "We won not because the boys were carrying the hopes of Fiji on their shoulders, but because the boys were on the shoulders of every Fijian," coach Ben Ryan declared.

Captain Osea Kolinisau found the outpouring of emotion overwhelming, telling journalists: "We knew it was going to be

crazy but not this crazy." The team received a standing ovation when they arrived at Prince Charles Park, as the crowd packed into the 18,000 capacity stadium clapped, danced and sang.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said it was a moment to be cherished forever. "As a nation we may be small but we are strong," he said. "We have limited resources but we are determined and unbeatable especially when we play effectively as a team."

Bainimarama said Fiji's golden victory made the country, with a population of less than one million, the centre of the world on the day of the Olympic final when more people searched for Fiji on the Internet than any other subject.

"The win has inspired people from around the world," Bainimarama said. The team later boarded a flight from Nadi to Suva ahead of a full day of celebrations today, which has been declared a national holiday. —AFP

'IMMATURE BEHAVIOR' GOT HIM INTO A MESS: LOCHTE

NEW YORK: American swimmer Ryan Lochte said he over-exaggerated what happened at a Rio de Janeiro gas station and acknowledged it was his "immature behavior" that got him and three teammates into a mess that consumed the final days of the Olympics.

Lochte, in a portion of an interview with NBC's Matt Lauer that aired Saturday, continued backtracking from a story that he initially described as an armed robbery. Police have said the swimmers vandalized a bathroom after a night of partying and armed guards confronted them and asked them to pay for the damage.

"It's how you want to make it look like," Lochte said. "Whether you call it a robbery or whether you call it extortion or us just paying for the damages, we don't know. All we know is that there was a gun pointed in our direction and we were demanded to give money."

But he admitted that he understood that he was being told that the Americans had to pay for the damage or the police would be called. At that point, Lauer said: "You're striking a deal. Is that fair?"

"We just wanted to get out of there," Lochte said, adding the swimmers were frightened. Lauer told Lochte that his story had morphed from one about "the mean streets or Rio" to a negotiated settlement to cover up dumb behavior.

"That's why I'm taking full responsibility for it, because I over-exaggerated the story," Lochte said. "If I had never done that, we wouldn't be in this mess." Lochte also said he had lied in telling NBC interviewer Billy Bush the next day that a gun had been cocked and pointed at his forehead. He said he was still under the influence of alcohol when he talked to Bush.

"I definitely had too much to drink that night and I was very intoxicated," he said. Lochte, who dyed his hair white for the games and had it turn a light shade of green from the pool, had changed his hair back to its regular shade of brown for the interview, which was conducted in New York. As Brazilian police investigated his robbery claim, and eventually held his teammates for questioning while they sorted out his story, he had tweeted he intended to dye it back.

He said he hoped to continue competitive swimming but acknowledged that it won't be his decision about whether he'd be able to be part of the American team again. USA Swimming and the International Olympic Committee could issue sanctions.

Lochte said he regretted how the incident had tarnished Rio and the last week of the Olympics. He also gave an interview to Brazil's main broadcaster Globo on Saturday to apologize for his actions.

"Brazil doesn't deserve that," he said to Globo. "I am sorry that my immaturity caused all this ruckus." —AP



Ryan Lochte

BOLT, PHELPS EXIT LEAVES OLYMPIC VOID

RIO DE JANEIRO: Twin titans Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps have mined a trove of Olympic gold, changed the sporting landscape and left a huge hole that starts in Rio and goes around the world. International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach hailed the two superstars as "icons." But he will leave the 31st Olympic Games wondering how to fill their places.

There is no one in sight with the sporting power nor the charisma to take the place of Phelps and Bolt who have 32 gold medals between them in the swimming pool or on the running track.

"The Greatest" maybe just Muhammad Ali-style hyperbole that Bolt likes to throw about but his nine golds over three Olympics cannot be countered. Phelps won five golds in Rio at the age of 31 having retired once and come back-and crashed a car under the influence along the way. "We have seen athletes who were icons even before they arrived here, they have strengthened their position as icons, like Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt," Bach said Saturday. From Beijing in 2008 through London 2012 and, finally, in Rio, Bolt and Phelps captivated die-hard fans of their sports and casual spectators attracted like moths to the Olympic flame.

PERFECT PAIR

Both presaged their mature exploits with precocious Olympics appearances, Phelps as a 15-year-old contesting the 200m butterfly in 2000, and Bolt, at 17, finishing fifth in his heat in the 200m in 2004.

By those Games in Athens in 2004, Phelps was already challenging Mark Spitz's record of seven titles at one Games, coming away with six golds and two bronze.

In Beijing he cemented his place among Games greats with a perfect eight golds in eight events at the Water Cube while Bolt electrified the Birds' Nest stadium with his 100m, 200m and 4x100m sprint triumphs. From Beijing on they were linked in Games lore, each adding to his legacy in 2012 — Bolt with another sprint sweep and Phelps with four more gold to add to his staggering tally of Olympic medals. Although a burned-out Phelps flirted with retirement after London, it was fitting that his decision to return for one last, fifth, campaign, saw him bow out at the same time as Bolt. The Jamaican's unprecedented third sweep of the 100m, 200m and 4x100m means debate will rage loud and long as to which can claim the status of "greatest Olympian".

Phelps leads the medals table by a mile. His five golds in Rio took his already stunning tally to 23 gold among a total of 28. Bolt, meanwhile, has dominated in the tests of speed that are the quintessential sporting contests, maintaining his supremacy over an unprecedented span of years.

"I've proven to the world I'm the greatest," declared the ebullient Jamaican, who preens and poses with the same unabashed ardor with which he runs. "It's a massive gap, but it's not a gap that is insuperable," International Association of Athletics Federations president Sebastian Coe said of Bolt's departure. —AFP

SOLO, MARTA AND BUGS: OLYMPIC WOMEN'S SOCCER HAD IT ALL



SAO PAULO: Brazil's Marta, right, and Canada's Jessie Fleming compete for the ball during the bronze medal match of the women's Olympic football tournament between Brazil and Canada at the Arena Corinthians stadium in Sao Paulo. —AP

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS AT RIO 2016

RIO DE JANEIRO: There's no gain without pain at the Olympics. The blood, sweat and tears of the Rio Games:

BLOODIED BUT UNBOWED

The Olympics proved a painful and cruel experience for Dutch cyclist Annemiek van Vleuten and French gymnast Samir Ait Said. Ten kilometres (6 miles) from the finish of the women's road race and van Vleuten was in a good place. In the lead, gold within her grasp. Then disaster. In a stomach-churning high speed crash she was hurled over the handlebars on a tricky bend. Instead of climbing the podium she was stretched to intensive care with heavy concussion and three cracked vertebrae. Happily she was well enough to take to Twitter 24 hours later, to tell her fans: "I am now in the hospital with some injuries and fractures, but will be fine. Most of all super disappointed after best race of my career." Another casualty in Rio was Ait Said. Anyone watching qualifying for the men's vault will have winced in horror at the sight of the unfortunate French gymnast snapping the lower part of his left leg after a bad landing. The 25-year-old fell to the mat in agony clutching the back of his knee and his leg, which was left at an angle that shocked many in the crowd. After surgery he showed remarkable spirit in the face of adversity, declaring that he wanted to try for Tokyo 2020. "I can be back on my feet in not very long, well 'on my feet', everything is relative."

COOK'S SWEAT BUT NO DESSERT

It's one thing to sweat and sweat and then reap the rewards of your endeavour. It's quite another to put in all the hard graft for zero return. Just ask Aaron Cook. But not yet perhaps, it's too soon. Utter devastation was etched all over his face after his first round knockout in the under-80kg taekwondo competition. Defeat is part and parcel of sport, but for Cook this was especially hard to swallow. For Rio was his big moment, a first return to the Olympics since 2008 after being controversially overlooked for selection by Britain at London 2012. His parents mortgaged their home to fund his ultimately failed appeal against the decision. He then resorted to drastic measures, switching nationalities. He walked out this week behind the Republic of Moldova flag. But all the exertion, cost and personal hardship he's endured flashed before his tear-stained eyes as he was sent packing by a Taiwanese rival in his opening bout.

A TALE OF TWO TEARS

Rio 2016 was awash with tears - at times the Olympics was akin to a crying convention. The Maracana almost floated down to Buenos Aires on the torrent of tears shed by Neymar and the rest of the Brazilian football team after Saturday's penalty shoot out gold medal win against Germany. Over the past two weeks there were tears of joy, of frustration, of agony, and in the case of Renaud Lavillenie, of shock at the ear-splitting boos directed at him as he went head-to-head and lost to local hero Thiago Braz in the pole vault. The Frenchman was stunned and wounded by the reaction, so much so he was moved to comparing himself to Jesse Owens and the hostile treatment meted out to the American athlete at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics. "In 1936 the crowd was against Jesse Owens. We've not see this since. We have to deal with it," he said. The ill-judged comment stirred up partisan locals even further. He was roundly booed again at the following night's podium ceremony. That reduced Lavillenie to tears, his crumpled face a picture of misery, as smiling Braz saluted the Brazilian national anthem after receiving his gold medal. —AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: It started with "Zika!" taunts from the Brazilians and wound through the Amazon before a surprising exit for the United States. It ended with heartbreak for the hosts and first-time gold for Germany. The women's soccer tournament at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics had a little bit of everything - and Hope Solo. The US goalkeeper was the lightning rod of the tournament, irking fans in the South American nation when she posted a photo of herself covered with mosquito netting and armed with insect repellent on social media. Fans booed her mercilessly and hollered "Zika!" each time she kicked downfield.

Then, when the three-time defending champion US team fell on penalties after a 1-1 draw with Sweden in the quarterfinals, she caused a stir when she called the Swedes "a bunch of cowards" for bunkering defensively.

Sweden's coach Pia Sundhage, who led the US team to gold medals in Beijing and London, replied by stating: "It's OK to be a coward if you win." Solo's comments drew a rebuke from her own federation and the International Olympic Committee. Even teammate Megan Rapinoe told NBC she was disappointed. Controversy aside, the early US expulsion from the tournament was shocking. The Americans, ranked No. 1 in the world, were coming off a triumphant victory in the Women's World Cup last summer. They had won gold in all but one Olympics since the women's game joined the event in 1996.

Carli Lloyd and Alex Morgan got off to good starts until a concerning draw against Colombia to cap the opening stage in Manaus, the Amazon city with moths the size of tennis balls. Sweden sent the Americans to their earliest Olympic exit ever in the very next match in Brasilia. Sixth-ranked Sweden would go on to bump Brazil in the semifinals - again on penalties after a scoreless draw - for a spot in the gold-medal match against old friend and rival Silvia Neid's German team.

The match at Alex's iconic Maracana Stadium was Neid's last as a coach. The two-time FIFA coach of the year had long planned to step down following the Rio Games. Beating Sweden 2-1 for the gold sent her

out in style. "I don't have any words to describe it properly, but when you reach your goal it is just that moment of pure joy," said Neid, who will next work as a scout for the team. "It doesn't matter if it's a World Cup, European Championship or Olympic Games, this is what you've earned from your weeks and months of hard work."

Sweden claimed the silver and Canada won its second straight Olympic bronze medal with a 2-1 victory over host Brazil in Sao Paulo. The Olympic tournament was spread over many of the same cities

used in the 2014 men's World Cup.

Canadian captain Christine Sinclair scored in the victory for her 165th career goal in her 250th appearance for the national team. It was only after the bronze medal was hung around her neck did she reveal that her father had passed away two months before the games. Brazil's inability to medal was heartbreaking for Marta, the talented five-time FIFA world player of the year, who was finally getting the attention she has deserved from her native country.

Earlier in the tournament, when the eventual

gold-winning Brazilian men's team and star Neymar were struggling, some fans crossed out his name on their No. 10 jerseys and wrote in hers in magic marker. At one match, fans cheered her by chanting "Better Than Neymar." While there is speculation the 30-year-old Marta may retire - she made her international debut at 16 - she told reporters she hadn't made a decision just yet. But she did have a plea to soccer fans in Brazil as the women's game continues to struggle for backing from both its federation and the public. —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Iran's Reza Mohammad Ali Yazdani (red) wrestles with Uzbekistan's Magomed Idrisovitch Ibragimov in their men's 97kg freestyle repechage round 2 match yesterday, during the wrestling event of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Carioca Arena 2 in Rio de Janeiro. —AFP

TAEKWONDO NOT THREATENED BY KARATE IN TOKYO GAMES

RIO DE JANEIRO: Taekwondo bosses have extended a hand of Olympic welcome to their karate counterparts ahead of the sport's entry in the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Taekwondo long opposed karate's adoption by the Olympics as it was viewed as competition. But Yang Jin Bang, the director general of the World Taekwondo Federation, says things have changed and they no longer see karate as a threat. "They have been trying for so long and now they happen to have the Olympics in 2020 in the home of karate," said Yang.

"They're lucky to have the chance, so we should congratulate them and we will compete together for a better Games."

Apart from viewing karate's Games debut as deflecting from their own status, Yang believes the two sports can benefit from each other. "I think there is a good chance that both of us will make improvements," he said, although he stopped short of claiming karate's inclusion was good for taekwondo.

"It's not positive, not negative, it's just one more sport." There are already several combat sports in the Games-judo, wrestling, boxing, fencing-and Yang sees no reason to view karate and taekwondo as treading on each other's toes.

In fact, despite both involving the kicking and punching-taekwondo actually means the art of hand and foot-Yang insists they are very different. "At first appearances it (karate) seems very similar, but inside it's a totally different system-many ball games are similar so why not (have many combat sports)," he said.

"Taekwondo has a unique, special identity: who's the best in kick fighting. "You say karate and taekwondo are the same in terms of kicking and punching, but as you see, punching in taekwondo doesn't mean much. It's kicking, kicking fighting."

"Karate's more like punching, so we're very different."

'EXPOSURE'

Although karate will be part of the Games in Tokyo, that does not mean the sport-which began life as a

Japanese martial art-will become a permanent Olympic fixture.

"The IOC gave them the chance for exposure but they're not in yet, in the complete sense. So we have to see how they perform and how much people like it," Yang says taekwondo has become a hugely popular sport across many continents.

In Rio, Jordanian Ahmad Abughaush won his country's first ever Olympic medal in claiming gold in the men's 68kg division, while Kimia Alizadeh won Iran's first ever female medal with 57kg bronze.

Yang believes taekwondo's future in the Olympics is secure, regardless of karate.

"The IOC, that's their decision and it's no longer like karate in, we're out, or we're in and karate cannot get in. It's not any more that story. We don't see it that way."

"Many countries know taekwondo and we have a lot of advantages in specialities like the scoring system and everything. "Everyone enjoys taekwondo, a diverse population practises taekwondo, so this is a great thing for us."

Yang also insists taekwondo has been proactive in welcoming all people into the sport, including those who feel unable to participate in other sports due to their strict religious beliefs.

"We adopted the hijab and everything," he said. "Certain sports are prohibited for women in Islamic countries, (such as) combat sports. But in taekwondo they're allowed to practise." Yang says karate is not their concern, but rather growing taekwondo at the Games is.

In world and continental championships, there are eight weight divisions for men and women, but in the Games there are only allowed four. "We're the youngest combat sport so we have a quarter of the athletes that judo, wrestling have."

"That's another reason we want more weight divisions. Firstly because the weight difference is huge (between each category) — that's an issue for fairness and safety." —AFP



Olympic Games medals table at the end of Day 15 of competition in Rio de Janeiro.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
US	43	37	36	116
Britain	27	22	17	66
China	26	18	26	70
Russia	17	17	19	53
Germany	17	10	14	41
Japan	12	8	21	41
France	9	17	14	40
South Korea	9	3	9	21
Australia	8	11	10	29
Italy	8	11	7	26
Netherlands	8	6	4	18
Hungary	8	3	4	15
Spain	7	3	4	14
Brazil	6	6	6	18
Jamaica	6	3	2	11
Kenya	5	6	1	12
Croatia	5	3	2	10
Cuba	5	2	4	11
New Zealand	4	9	5	18
Canada	4	3	15	22
Kazakhstan	3	5	9	17
Colombia	3	2	3	8
Iran	3	1	4	8
Greece	3	1	2	6
Argentina	3	1	0	4
Sweden	2	6	3	11
South Africa	2	6	2	10
Ukraine	2	5	4	11
Poland	2	3	6	11
North Korea	2	3	2	7
Serbia	2	3	2	7
Uzbekistan	2	2	5	9
Belgium	2	2	2	6
Thailand	2	2	2	6
Switzerland	2	2	2	6
Slovakia	2	2	0	4
Georgia	2	1	4	7
Denmark	1	6	7	14
Azerbaijan	1	4	10	15
Belarus	1	4	4	9
Turkey	1	3	4	8
Armenia	1	3	0	4
Slovenia	1	2	1	4
Indonesia	1	2	0	3
Czech Republic	1	1	7	9
Ethiopia	1	1	5	7
Romania	1	1	2	4
Bahrain	1	1	0	2
Vietnam	1	1	0	2
Taiwan	1	0	2	3
Bahamas	1	0	1	2
Independent Olympic Athlete 1	0	1	2	3
Cote D'Ivoire	1	0	1	2
Tajikistan	1	0	0	1
Jordan	1	0	0	1
Fiji	1	0	0	1
Singapore	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Malaysia	0	4	1	5
Mexico	0	3	2	5
Ireland	0	2	0	2
Algeria	0	2	0	2
Lithuania	0	1	3	4
Venezuela	0	1	2	3
Bulgaria	0	1	1	2
India	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Grenada	0	1	0	1
Qatar	0	1	0	1
Burundi	0	1	0	1
Niger	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	0	4	4
Egypt	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	0	0	3	3
Israel	0	0	2	2
United Arab Emirates	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Austria	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Finland	0	0	1	1
Dominican Republic	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Total	295	295	350	940



RIO DE JANEIRO: United States' Claressa Maria Shields, right, fights Netherlands' Nouchka Fontijn during a women's middleweight 75-kg final boxing match at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. —AP



BRAZIL GRABS MEN'S VOLLEYBALL GOLD



RIO DE JANEIRO: With Neymar in a court-side seat cheering his countrymen, Wallace let out the emotional screams from deep in his lungs as Brazil fed off the energy in raucous Maracanazinho arena.

Over and over again he celebrated each point that got his team closer to an Olympic title. Brazil's determined men's volleyball team gave the hosts another sensational gold right next door to where Neymar and Co. did it less than 24 hours earlier in a thrilling penalty shootout against 2014 World Cup champion Germany.

For volleyball gold, Brazil beat mighty Italy 25-22, 28-26, 26-24 yesterday for the home team's first Olympic title in 12 years since a championship at Athens in 2004. That heartbreaking silver from London four years ago, forget about it. Brazil won on its own soil, as a captivated country watched with pride on the final day of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Neymar threw his hand up in triumph when the Brazilians grabbed the hard-fought second set, then jumped to his feet on each of the two match points Brazil needed to finish it. The "monster block!" tune that played all tournament sounded once more after Lipe's last play. He sprinted to the end of the floor and slid on his knees, arms raised to the sky.

Bruno rushed to Neymar for an embrace, while Lucas also ran to the stands to hug a supporter before holding Santos in his arms and fighting tears.

Neymar was hardly the only one enthralled in a chanting, flag-waving, hand-shaped thunderstick-pounding arena that became a sea of yellow,



RIO DE JANEIRO: An overview shows Brazil's Bruno Mossa De Rezende tapping the ball during the men's Gold Medal volleyball match between Italy and Brazil at the Maracanazinho stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. —AFP

green and blue.

The Brazilian men won for a volleyball-crazed country when Fabiana and the two-time defending women's team fell to eventual champion China in a five-set quarterfinal Tuesday. Brazil's men avenged a loss to Russia in the 2012 London Games gold-medal match with a straight-set victory Friday night, then carried that momentum - and rode the energy of their huge crowd - to the top spot

of the Olympic podium.

Italy came oh so close in London earning bronze, and then again just short in Rio. Now, the Italians are left to try again for their first volleyball gold in Tokyo 2020. This one went far too fast for the

Italians' taste.

The Brazilians reached their fourth straight Olympic title match and finally came out champions once more. Even

sweeter to reach the gold-medal match by knocking down the Russia team that beat them for gold in London.

The stunned Italians - in tears as they watched the wild celebration unfold - had outlasted the United States in a five-set semifinal that went down as an instant Olympic classic, then the Americans bounced back to earn the bronze medal earlier yesterday by rallying from two sets down to defeat Russia in five. —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Members of China's team celebrate a win after a women's gold medal volleyball match against Serbia at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. —AP

CHINESE TEAM CAPTURES WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL GOLD, COACH MAKES HISTORY



RIO DE JANEIRO: Head held high as she took the court moments after her Chinese team entered the arena, Jenny Lang Ping waved and smiled in several directions then paced around the floor observing China's championship opponent from Serbia.

She proudly sang through the national anthem, then guided her team to a come-from-behind gold - and made her own history, too. Lang Ping became the first person to win volleyball gold as a coach and player, her China team rallying from one-set down to defeat the upstart Serbians 19-25, 25-17, 25-22, 25-23 on Saturday night in the Rio championship match. "It's not important to me to make history," Lang Ping said. "I'm so happy for the young girls, they trained very hard." Early on in this tournament, Lang Ping - who captured an Olympic title with the 1984 Chinese national team in Los Angeles then later spent a four-year stint coaching the Americans - challenged her players to find ways to grow from their struggles with the world watching.

All along, Lang Ping believed her emotional China players had the talent and determination to compete with the top programs in the world. And oh, did they show it. Once they found a groove.

China took a 23-22 lead in the fourth set when Ting Zhu's kill sent Maja Ognjenovic to the floor with a hard ball to the face, and the match was over shortly thereafter. Lang Ping raised both arms in the air and Fangxu Yang sprinted over to embrace her. Many more hugs followed.

The Chinese exhibited that same fire and fight a year ago while winning the World Cup in Japan, then got to Rio de Janeiro earlier this month and worked through some initial rough, inconsistent Olympic moments. When the Chinese squad lost its Olympic opener in five sets to the Netherlands back on Aug. 6, Lang Ping challenged her players: to learn, to support one another through the ups and downs, to grow from each defeat and triumph on the pressure-packed Olympic stage.

China responded, and seemed to play better when the moments got bigger. "Before the tournament I never thought that we could win the gold," Lang Ping said. "I was thinking if we were lucky we could win a medal. You never know, our young players, at the beginning of the tournament we didn't play well. But at important times, we were really lucky we played well."

Lang Ping's group of women found its top level of volleyball over the recent days in Rio de Janeiro and spoiled things for a volleyball-crazed country in the process. China took down the two-time defending Olympic champion Brazilian women on their home turf in Tuesday's quarterfinals to show this team had arrived - and, until Saturday night, that had been China's shining moment.

The Chinese had much more fight still in them. "With our young team you never know. One day great, one day not," Lang Ping said. "We just had to be patient."

Serbia had pulled off an improbable upset of its own by taking down the top-ranked US women in a thrilling five-set semifinal Thursday. The Serbian women wore their socks pulled up Saturday, the words "Play to Win" written on the back. Their hands entwined, they sang in unison during the national anthem in an undeniably proud moment for the players, their supporters in the Rio stands and all of those others back home.

For Serbia, there will still be so much to celebrate from this remarkable run to the championship in Rio. This is the program's first Olympic medal, ever. "In this moment I must inform you about small history. In Europe, in the youth category Serbia is No 1, in junior category Serbia is No. 1," said Aleksandar Boricic, President of the European Volleyball Confederation. "We wait for the result in the Olympic Games if the senior team can be No 1. It's a great future, they have many young players. In this kind of competition, Olympic Games, world championships, sometimes you need more lucky balls." —AP



KENYA'S KIPCHOGE ROMPS TO RIO MARATHON GOLD

RIO DE JANEIRO: Red-hot favourite Eliud Kipchoge stormed to a runaway gold medal in a wet men's marathon yesterday, the final day of competition at the Rio Olympics.

The Kenyan broke away at the 35km mark and romped home to win in a time of two hours, eight minutes, 44 seconds-over a minute quicker than Ethiopia's Feyisa Lilesa, who took silver, before claiming his life could be in danger. American Galen Rupp, the 10,000m silver medalist in London four years ago, claimed bronze in 2:10:05.

In the shadow of the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, poking through the rain clouds from high above the city, Kipchoge produced a virtuoso performance as he added gold to the 5,000m silver he won in Beijing in 2008 and his bronze from Athens 2004. "It really feels great," he told AFP after winning Kenya's sixth gold medal of the Games, all of them in athletics.

"I felt I had a little bit in the tank and it was comfortable, it was very comfortable. It's my first gold medal, it's the best win of my life." It was a seventh victory in eight marathons for the 31-year-old phenomenon, who won the London Marathon for the second year running in April, coming within eight seconds of Dennis Kimetto's world record of 2:02:57. A morning downpour put paid to any thoughts of a world record as 155 runners representing 80 countries splashed around the course snaking through the heart of Rio's historic centre in conditions miles removed from the holiday brochures of sun-kissed Rio.

Tokyo champion Lilesa had looked in the mood to push Kipchoge while Rupp kept pace after the trio dropped Ethiopian Lemi Berhanu just after the halfway point.

POLITICAL PROTEST

Lilesa crossed his arms above his head as he finished the race as a protest against the Ethiopian government's crackdown on political dissent. "I have relatives in prison back home," he said. "If you talk about democracy they kill you. If I go back to Ethiopia maybe they will kill me, or put me in prison."

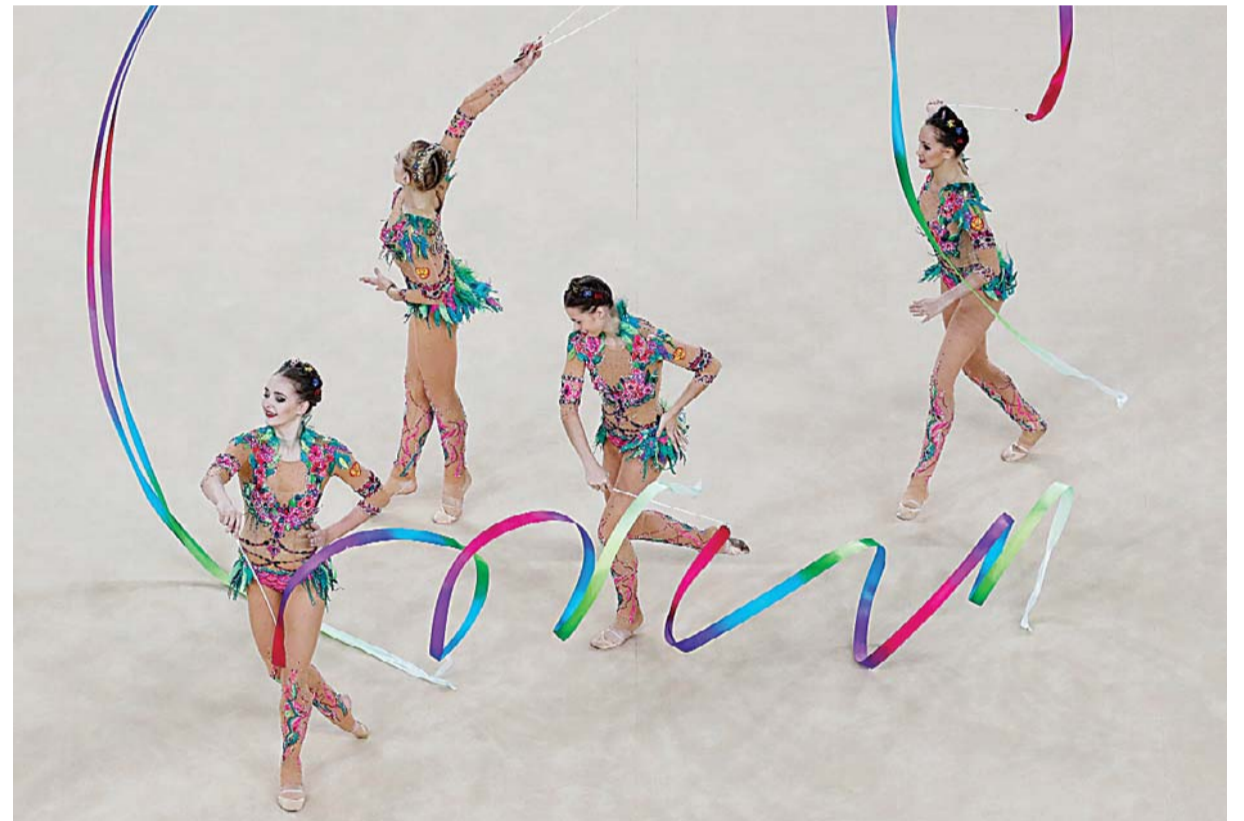
"It is very dangerous in my country. Maybe I have to go to another country. I was protesting for people everywhere who have no freedom."

Kipchoge proved too strong, however, sprinting home along the home straight of the Sambadrome, home of Rio's famed carnival, to loud cheers from Brazilian fans before dropping to his knees and crossing himself in celebration. "I think the rain was a good advantage because the temperature in Brazil is terrible," said Kipchoge, who was serenaded by local fans chanting "Kenya! Kenya!" after the race. "The secret is good planning and good preparation. But I was really aiming for the gold medal here, not a world record."

Rupp's bronze was the third medal in 12 hours for controversial coach Alberto Salazar's after golds by American Matthew Centrowitz in the 1,500m and Briton Mo Farah in 5,000m on Saturday. "He beats the hell out of us in training," said Rupp. "But having such a great group of guys in Mo and Matthew, it's a great dynamic. We really help push each other." —AFP



Eliud Kipchoge



RIO DE JANEIRO: Russia's team compete in the group all-around final event of the Rhythmic Gymnastics at the Olympic Arena during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. —AFP

RUSSIANS WIN FIFTH SUCCESSIVE TEAM GOLD

RIO DE JANEIRO: Russia's rhythmic gymnasts shut out the rest of the world for a fifth successive Olympics yesterday, with a free-flowing acrobatic display with hoops and clubs winning them another group all-around gold medal.

Spain had high hopes of snapping Russia's reign as they were leading at the halfway point of the competition following an exquisite display with five ribbons, with the champions trailing in third behind Bulgaria.

With 30 meters of multi-coloured ribbons on show in the opening routines, the main challenge for the gymnasts was to avoid getting tangled as they showed off their synchronized choreography and acrobatic skills during the two minute 30 second displays.

The competition came alive when world champions Russia returned with two hoops and six clubs. Rolling the hoop along the contours of their bodies, diving through it, and using their feet to catapult it to fellow gymnasts were popular moves.

They drew rapturous applause as they each arched one leg back to perform a synchronised fast-paced

Biellmann spin.

Russia's dynamic performance with their second routine allowed them to leapfrog the early pacesetters, and they topped the standings with 36.233.

"We were concerned after the first rotation when everything did not go smoothly," said Russia's Anastasia Tatareva.

"There was a collision and one of the ribbons ended up on the floor. That hiccup forced us to pull ourselves together and do our best to beat our rivals."

For the fifth successive Olympics, Russia completed the rhythmic gymnastics double after Margarita Mamun won the individual all-around gold on Saturday.

Spain, who won the gold in 1996 when the sport made its Olympic debut but then failed to get on the podium at the next four Olympics, claimed silver with 35.766.

"For us this silver medal feels like gold," said Spain's Alejandra Quereda. "The Russians are very strong ... but we are catching up." Bulgaria, world champions in 2014, grabbed the bronze. —Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: Bronze medallists USA's Kimberly Hill (C) and Rachael Adams (R) pose for a selfie kissing their medals on the podium after the women's Gold Medal volleyball match at Maracanazinho Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. —AFP

Sports

Briton Crutchlow wins rain-hit Czech MotoGP



Brazil grabs men's volleyball gold



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SELECTING 6 NUMBERS TURNED GB INTO OLYMPIC SUPERPOWER Page 17



RIO DE JANEIRO: Britain's Mo Farah celebrates after he won the Men's 5000m Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on August 20, 2016. — AFP

MIGHTY MO SEALS DISTANCE DOUBLE

CENTROWITZ CLAIMS 1,500M SHOCK



ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Britain's Mo Farah completed a historic Olympic distance double with victory in the 5,000m Saturday as American runner Matt Centrowitz scored an upset win to claim the 1,500m gold.

Farah became the first man since Finnish great Lasse Viren in 1976 to retain two Olympic distance titles after storming to victory, a week after defending his 10,000m crown at Rio's Olympic Stadium.

The 33-year-old Somali-born Londoner again produced a superb tactical race on Saturday to outfox his rivals and take gold in 13min 3.30sec.

"Oh my God I can't believe it!" said Farah. "My legs were tired after the 10,000m and people had to bring me food in my room. This is the most satisfying win of the four, it is incredible."

"If you have dreams they can come true and I always wanted to achieve these for my kids because for so much of the year you don't see them. You want to show them something or rather the reason for the absences."

Centrowitz produced the biggest upset on the final night of track competition, beating defending champion Taoufik Makhloufi of Algeria into second place to win gold in 3min 50.00sec.

Centrowitz became the first American man in more than a century to win the event, which has been shared exclusively between African runners since 1996.

GOLDEN FINISH FOR FELIX

The last American to win the Olympics 1500m was Mel Sheppard in the 1908 London Games. "There's nothing like it. It doesn't compare to anything else I've won in my life," said Centrowitz. "Doing my victory lap, I literally kept screaming to everyone I know 'Are you kidding me?'" New Zealand's Nicholas Willis took the bronze medal in 3:50.24. Centrowitz's win was one of three golds won by the United States, who also took the 4x400m relays.

US track golden girl Allyson Felix led home her team in the women's 4x400m, crossing the line in 3min 19.06sec to claim a record sixth gold medal.

The United States extended a stunning winning streak. They have not lost the event since 1992.

Felix, who 24 hours earlier helped the USA win 4x100m relay gold, has now won more track gold medals than any other woman athlete in history.

"I can look back at the things I've accomplished and be really proud," Felix said. "It was a good night!"

In the men's 4x400m, former Olympic 400m champion LaShwan Merritt led the US team home in 2:57.30 with Jamaica finishing in silver and defending champion of the Bahamas bronze in 2:58.49.

South Africa's Caster Semenya completed a convincing victory in the 800m to win her first Olympic gold in 1:55.28. Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi took silver in 1:56.49 with Kenya's Margaret Wambui claiming bronze in 1:56.89. Semenya has been at the centre of a raging controversy because of her naturally occurring condition, hyperandrogenism, which causes elevated testosterone levels.

She has dominated the event since a sports court last year judged that an International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) regulation limiting competitive testosterone levels was unlawful.

Shortly before Saturday's final, IAAF chief Sebastian Coe said the world body would seek to revisit the question with the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Semenya would not be drawn on the controversy.

"We're not here to talk about the IAAF," she said. "We're not here to talk about speculations."

"We're not here to talk about the 800m that we ran today."

The other big winner Saturday was Spain's veteran high jumper Ruth Beitia, who scored the biggest win of her 20-year career with a gold. The 37-year-old became the oldest woman to win an Olympic jumping event after clearing 1.97m. Beitia won on countback from Mirela Demireva of Bulgaria and Blanka Vlasic of Croatia. The javelin was won by Germany's Thomas Rohler with a 90.30m throw. Kenya's reigning world champion Julius Yego won silver with 88.24m while defending Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago claimed bronze with 85.83m. — AFP

FRANCE'S YOKA FOLLOWS FIANCEE TO BOXING GOLD



BOXING

RIO DE JANEIRO: France's Tony Yoka earned a nervy split-points decision to win super-heavyweight gold at the Rio Games yesterday and add to the Olympic title won by his fiancée. Yoka's triumph over Joe Joyce of Britain means it is a double celebration after his fiancée Estelle Mossely won France's first women's Olympic boxing crown on Friday.

The couple embraced ringside after he got the narrow win before wrapping themselves in a French flag, as boos from the crowd greeted the judges' verdict. "I thought the gold was mine, I'll just have to watch it again. I was landing shots on him and getting through his guard. He nicked it," Joyce, 30, a fine arts graduate, told the BBC.

"I gave it my all, got the training right, just disappointed. Silver isn't that bad but I expect-

ed the gold-it just wasn't to be." Anthony Joshua, the British heavyweight champion watching ringside and a gold medallist at London 2012, said Joyce deserved the win. "I've never seen a heavyweight throw so many punches in a fight. For me he is the Olympic champion in spirit. The sky is the limit for him. He is a credit inside and outside the ring."

"I was just praying he would catch him with one punch. The power Joe possesses... he is a phenomenal fighter." Joyce made the better start, landing some clumping punches to rock the Frenchman.

Yoka was more mobile but Joyce was packing the greater power in the final bout of the boxing tournament in Brazil.

The 24-year-old Yoka seemed sluggish and unable to get his punches away, with Joyce working the body frequently. The pair were gasping by the third and final round, with Mossely watching anxiously on from the stands. A confident Yoka stuck his tongue out at the Briton seconds from the final bell-confident he had the decision. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: France's Tony Victor James Yoka (L) is congratulated by his wife French boxer and gold medalist Estelle Mossely after he won against Great Britain's Joe Joyce during the Men's Super Heavy (+91kg) Final Bout at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Riocentro - Pavilion 6 in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. — AFP

VINDICATED NEYMAR DELIVERS BRAZIL'S MOST TREASURED GOLD



SOCCER

RIO DE JANEIRO: After a rollercoaster Olympics for the hosts, it took just one kick of a ball from Brazil's poster boy Neymar to make a nation's dream come true. It is unusual for football to become the main event of the Games, but, for the most successful nation in World Cup history, the hitherto lack of Olympic gold had become an obsession.

Neymar finally succeeded where the likes of Ronaldo and Ronaldinho had failed when he coolly slotted into the top corner to edge a penalty shootout 5-4 against Germany at a packed Maracana on Saturday after a 1-1 draw.

"This is one of the best things that has happened in my life," said the tearful Barcelona star. It was a fitting finale that after queries and criticism of Brazilian fans' penchant for treating every sport like football, the biggest crowd of the

Games packed the Maracana to do what they know best.

"Brazil could have won (gold) medals in everything but if it hadn't been in football then nothing would have counted," said jubilant fan Leila Lopes da Silva, 70, to summarise the mood of a jubilant nation. Neymar's spot-kick also exorcised some of the demons that have dogged Brazilian football since Germany sent them packing from their own World Cup with a humiliating 7-1 thrashing just two years ago.

"This phase now has passed. We can look forward to the future more confident and more proud. Brazilian football is not dead," said Brazil coach Rogerio Micale.

Talk of revenge was exaggerated. Not one player played in both Belo Horizonte 775 days ago and in Rio on Saturday.

However, so wounded was Brazil's pride that another capitulation on home soil was unimaginable.

It is for that reason that Neymar was selected for the Games instead of the Copa America-where Brazil crashed out at the group stages-back in June. — AFP

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Lulu Group plans to invest \$300 m in Kerala project

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'Yet' is Creative Muse for Lexus Design Award 2017

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BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center), the Prime Minister of Italy Matteo Renzi (right), and the President of France Francois Hollande (left) leave a news conference during a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin. — AP

ITALY TO HOST SYMBOLIC SUMMIT FOR EU UNITY

RENZI IN BID TO REINVIGORATE EUROPEAN UNITY AFTER BREXIT CRISIS

ROME: Italian Premier Matteo Renzi has invited his German and French counterparts to pay their respects at the tomb of one of the founding fathers of European unity in a symbolic bid to relaunch the European project after Britain's clamorous decision to leave the EU.

The location for today's summit carries particular resonance as Europe confronts Islamic extremist violence, slow economic growth and continued anxiety over the implications of the Brexit vote. Italy has a lot to gain from a reinvigorated EU as it copes with flat GDP, the migrant crisis and political uncertainties over a constitutional referendum this fall on which Renzi has staked his government's survival.

The island of Ventotene off Naples, filled with sun-worshipping tourists in the waning days of summer, was where detained anti-fascist Altiero Spinelli in 1941 began co-writing the "Ventotene Manifesto," which called for a federation of European states to counter the nationalism that had led Europe to war.

The document is considered the inspiration of European

federalism. Renzi has called Ventotene the "cradle of Europe" and is keen to highlight its historic role as Italy seeks even greater integration, particularly on the security front to help it cope with waves of migrants, and flexibility from Brussels as it tries to rein in its record public debt.

"It seems strange, and in many ways it is, that from this tiny island the biggest political victory of the 20th century was borne: 70 years of peace between peoples who fought constantly and cyclically," Renzi said in January when he visited Ventotene and announced plans to restore its abandoned prison into a museum and European learning center.

Monday's mini-summit will serve as a warmup for an EU-wide summit in Bratislava in September designed to chart the EU's post-Brexit way forward. It follows an initial three-way huddle by Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Holland in Berlin in the days immediately following the June 23 British referendum.

Charting a course is difficult until Britain formally begins

the exit process, probably next year, and lays out proposals for its future relationship with the EU.

In Berlin, the three leaders pledged their commitment to European unity and plotted a common proposal to relaunch the European project focusing on three key areas: improving security, boosting economic growth and strengthening options and programs for young people.

The summit also gives Renzi a chance to hash out options as Italy copes with slow growth and other financial worries, especially at its banks which are struggling under some 360 billion euros (\$408 billion) in bad loans.

According to recent Eurostat figures, growth was flat in Italy in the second quarter, compared with 0.4 percent growth in the EU. Unemployment was 11.6 percent in June, well above the EU average of 8.6 percent. Youth unemployment was even worse: 36.5 percent in Italy, exceeded in the EU only by Spain, and nearly twice as high as the EU average of 18.5 percent.

Renzi, however, has a bigger concern on the horizon, a gamble that he brought on himself and is worrying Europe

as it could affect Italy's political stability and strengthen the euroskeptic, populist 5-Star Movement.

Renzi has called a referendum for this fall proposing a host of changes to the constitution, including reducing the power of the Senate and giving the central government control of some policy areas now in the hands of regions. Renzi has suggested he would resign if it fails, an outcome that Italy's business lobby Confindustria has warned would create "political chaos" and lead Italy back into recession.

In an interview this weekend with La Repubblica, Renata Colorni, whose father helped spread the "Ventotene Manifesto" through Italy's resistance movement and whose mother married Spinelli, said she had little hope that today's Europe could ever meet the Ventotene founders' original ideals.

"Honestly, today I don't see first-rate politicians, I only see statesmen who move through the European scene worried about losing the next national elections," she was quoted as saying. "What's missing is the will to risk it all for an ideal." — AP

GULF EDGES DOWN DESPITE PETCHEMS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most Gulf stock markets edged down yesterday despite strength in some Saudi Arabian petrochemical shares, while Telecom Egypt boosted Egypt's bourse slightly. Brent crude oil closed above \$50 a barrel on Thursday and Friday for the first time since July 4. This encouraged buying of petrochemical stocks yesterday, with Saudi Basic Industries adding 0.9 percent to 84.25 riyals, nearing technical resistance at 86-87 riyals, the top of the range in which it has traded since April.

Most other stocks were sluggish in the absence of fresh, positive news, and the main Saudi equities index fell 0.2 percent. Dubai's stock index fell 0.4 percent to 3,560 points, once again retreating from technical resistance at its April peak of 3,605 points. Construction firm Drake & Scull slid 2.7 percent. Qatar's index fell 0.2 percent. Stocks which surged last week on hopes they would be included in FTSE's emerging markets index next month lost steam, with Qatar National Bank flat and Qatar Insurance losing 1.4 percent.

Bahrain's index outperformed the region, rising 0.7 percent, but that was mostly because of a 6.3 percent jump in Arab Banking Corp in very thin trade. In Egypt, the index rose 0.4 percent as Telecom Egypt surged 3.0 percent. Late last week the telecommunications regulator approved revised terms for 4G

mobile broadband network licenses; Telecom Egypt has said it will buy a license.

SAUDI ARABIA

• The index fell 0.2 percent to 6,212 points.

DUBAI

• The index dropped 0.4 percent to 3,560 points.

ABU DHABI

• The index edged up 0.02 percent to 4,519 points.

EGYPT

• The index rose 0.4 percent to 8,352 points.

QATAR

• The index fell 0.2 percent to 11,298 points.

KUWAIT

• The index edged down 0.1 percent to 5,468 points.

OMAN

• The index edged up 0.1 percent to 5,899 points.

BAHRAIN

• The index rose 0.7 percent to 1,157 points. — Reuters

WORK UNTIL 69? BUNDESBANK CALL REIGNITES GERMAN DEBATE

BERLIN: The German central bank's call for people to work until age 69 has reignited a fierce debate in Europe's fast-ageing top economy, with analysts backing it while politicians show their opposition ahead of key elections. Economy Minister and Vice-Chancellor Sigmar

Gabriel was swift to condemn it, saying: "A factory worker, a shop assistant, a nurse, a caregiver would find this idea nuts. So do I!"

The offending idea is a passage in this month's Bundesbank report, which noted that "the currently satisfactory financial situation of public pension treasuries should not distract from the fact that other changes would have to be made to ensure its sustainability".

And what the bank proposed to ensure stability of the pensions system is a further gradual increase in the legal retirement age, already set to go from 65 to 67 by 2029, to reach 69 years by 2060.

Life expectancy in Germany at present is 78 for men and 83 for women, and it is continuing to rise. Even if Germans are increasingly delaying their retirement, the effective age when most leave employment is 62. That means around two decades worth of pensions need financing while at the same time, the

working population funding these payments is shrinking as the country ages rapidly.

The Bundesbank had already come up with the magic number back in 2009. But it resuscitated the 69 figure this week as it wanted to "contribute to the debate" and incite politicians to adopt a more long-term vision, a spokesman told AFP. Political parties, which are already warming up for general elections next year, are expected to make pensions a key theme of their campaigns.

With 20 million retirees eligible to vote, politicians will be seeking to win on issues ranging from the level of future pensions and the question of equalising pension payments in east and west Germany, to the amount of contributions to be levied on future working generations. But no one expects to win votes by

telling Germans they would have to work two years longer.

Gabriel's Social Democrats-a junior partner in the ruling right-left coalition-have firmly rejected the idea of raising further the retirement age. For Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, the question has not

even arisen, the party's general secretary said, stressing that 67 is the right age for retirement. But economists threw their weight behind the Bundesbank and some even challenged the bank's estimate as falling on the low end. According to estimates by the economic think-tank IW Institute in Cologne, Germans would need to work until 73 if they want to maintain their pensions and contributions at current levels.

Axel Boersch-Supan, an economist at the Max Planck institute, meanwhile suggested that the retirement age should be pegged to the development of life expectancy. German politicians' refusal to address the issue on what comes after 2030 simply shows a "fear of confronting the truth," said Boersch-Supan.

"And don't forget," added IW president Michael Huether, that "what the Bundesbank is talking about actually concerns those who are born after 1995, that means people who are only turning 20 now. It's not about making someone who is working now retire only at 69 or 70."

But the issue is making many nervous, particularly at a time when many savers are seeing little gain from their long-term investments against the backdrop of the European Central Bank's low interest rate expansionary policy. "Working until 70 while others feast on canapés and some are unemployed," huffed a reader on Spiegel Online. Huether however argued that the Bundesbank's suggestion was likely to be the "least damaging solution for everyone". — AFP



Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann

'Fear of the truth'

Gabriel's Social Democrats-a junior partner in the ruling right-left coalition-have firmly rejected the idea of raising further the retirement age. For Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, the question has not



LUSAKA: Zambian Ruling party Patriotic Front presidential candidate and incumbent Zambian President Edward Lungu (center) dancing and gesturing before delivering a speech during his presidential campaign closing rally. Zambia's newly re-elected President Edgar Lungu faces an uphill battle to revive an economy reeling from a slump in copper prices, with a free-falling currency and widening budget deficit. —AFP

ZAMBIA'S LUNGU FACES BATTLE TO RESTORE ECONOMIC GROWTH

COUNTRY FACES A FREE-FALLING CURRENCY, WIDENING BUDGET GAP

LUSAKA: Zambia's newly re-elected President Edgar Lungu faces an uphill battle to revive an economy reeling from a slump in copper prices, with a free-falling currency and widening budget deficit. After winning last week's disputed vote, Lungu moved to assure supporters that a new government will work to improve the welfare of Zambians grappling with high inflation and rising food prices. A drop in copper prices of almost one-third from their peak in February 2011 has resulted in thousands of job losses in the mining industry, where most companies are owned by foreign, notably Chinese investors.

The crisis saw some companies suspend production, dealing a further blow to the southern African country's top export.

"The new government needs to work hard to restore economic growth," said Oliver Saasa, the chief executive of business consultancy Premier Consult.

Saasa believes that Lungu, who first took office in January 2015 after the death of president Michael Sata, had been restricted by policies of his late predecessor. "A government policy shake-up is needed in order to turn things around and inspire confidence in the system," he told AFP. "We cannot always rely on copper, the economy needs to diversify."

Zambia previously enjoyed a stellar period of growth, peaking at 10.3 percent in 2010. But the falling copper price has put the economy "under intense pressure", according to the International Monetary Fund. In 2015 the country recorded gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.2 percent—its lowest since 1998—and the rate is forecast to slip to around 3.0 percent this year.

'No honeymoon'

The turbulent times saw the govern-

ment in April mulling an emergency loan from the IMF, but no request has yet been finalised. Although his poll victory is being challenged in court by his main rival, Hakainde Hichilema, the Patriotic Front leader has vowed to hit the ground running. "For the next five years, it will be total work, there will be no honeymoon," Lungu told supporters at a rally shortly after his re-election last week.

The budget deficit is swelling—from 4.6 percent of GDP in 2015 it is projected to hover above 8.0 percent this year. Adding to his woes is the state of the kwacha currency, which has weakened by 80 percent in two years against the US dollar, making it one of the worst performers in Africa in 2015 and pushing the inflation rate above 20 percent.

Zambia's economic problems are compounded by poor access to basic services, with electricity cuts still lasting up to four

hours a day, compared to eight hours in June. The crippling power shortages, which have hindered growth and investment, were triggered by an ongoing regional drought. Low water levels in Lake Kariba hobble the hydropower that supplies much of the country's electricity.

For ordinary Zambians, life has become a daily struggle. Households, even in the capital Lusaka, have turned to firewood and coal for cooking, filling the skyline with plumes of dark smoke. But for many, a lack of jobs and soaring food prices are their most serious concerns. "The biggest worry I have now is the high cost of living," said Morgan Zulu, who voted for Lungu in the election. "Prices for almost everything in the country have gone up... the government to be formed should help reduce the cost of living." According to the World Bank, 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. — AFP

News

In brief

US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

KUWAIT: The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301 yesterday while the euro's rate went up to KD 0.341, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The rate of the pound sterling stabilized at KD 0.393, the same case with the Swiss franc which exchanged at KD 0.313. The rate of the Japanese yen stood firm at KD 0.003.

Gold price stabilizes at \$1,339 per ounce

KUWAIT: The gold price stabilized at \$1,339 per ounce in the end of the past week trades, two dollars higher than the level in the week's start, according to Sabayik Al-Kuwait company for precious metals. Sabayik Al-Kuwait indicated in a report, released yesterday, that the gold jumped above the \$1,340 per ounce level on Wednesday, after the US Federal Reserve decided not to raise the interest. Meanwhile, silver dropped to \$19.23 per ounce after falling to the level of \$19.23 per ounce.

Egypt sees eurobond yield at 5.5-6% for Sept

CAIRO: Egypt expects its eurobond issuance at the end of September or early October to have a yield between 5.5 percent and 6 percent, Deputy Finance Minister for fiscal policies Ahmed Kojak told Reuters yesterday. Egypt's government this month approved plans for international issuance of between \$3 billion and \$5 billion. Last week Egypt appointed JPMorgan, Citi, BNP Paribas and Natixis to lead manage its international bond offering. "We aim to issue eurobonds worth \$3 billion with interest rates ranging between 5.5 and 6 percent and with maturity of five to ten years," Kojak said. "If we find great appetite and demand from investors for this issuance and at appropriate prices then we could increase the amount issued and we can lower the cost of the issuance if the interest rate prices offered are high," he said.

ACWA Power expands revolving credit facility

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia-based power and water project developer ACWA Power said yesterday it had increased a revolving credit facility secured last year by 600 million riyals (\$160 million) to 1.30 billion riyals. The extra funds will be solely provided by Saudi Hollandi Bank, with the facility available until the third quarter of 2020, it said in a statement. It added that the facility was structured as a shariah-compliant commodity murabaha structure. The company said its total revolving facilities now stand at 3.5 billion riyals.



AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:-

Fyroz Mustansir Kachwala	KD 7000,
Shemaa Mohamad Al-Amair Husain Shaker	KD 7000,
Sheikha Nourah Athbi Al-Sabah	KD 7000,
Fathiya Jassim Al-Ostath	KD 7000,
Muna Khalaf And Rola Ihsan Saleh Khalaf	KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account Daily draw to win KD 7000

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

1ST Quarter — KD 100,000, 2ND Quarter— KD 150,000, 3RD Quarter — KD 200,000, 4TH Quarter — KD 250,000

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

* Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

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OOREDOO INKS PARTNERSHIP WITH MBC GROUP FOR EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DOHA: Ooredoo and MBC Group have yesterday signed a seven-year partnership granting Ooredoo the exclusive rights in Qatar to some of the most popular High Definition (HD) channels, offering customers an incredible range of entertainment.

The agreement was signed by Waleed Mohamed Ebrahim Al-Sayed, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Qatar, and Sam Barnett, CEO, MBC Group at a ceremony yesterday.

Following the partnership agreement, Ooredoo tv customers in Qatar will be able to enjoy unparalleled coverage of a huge range of award-winning MBC premium content such as "Bab Al-Hara", "Omar", "Arab Idol", "The Voice", "Arabs Got Talent" and others. Talking about the agreement

Waleed Al-Sayed commented: "This agreement will provide Ooredoo tv with exclusive HD coverage in Qatar of some of the most popular TV programs across MENA. This is a milestone for our entertainment portfolio, as we continue to strive to provide the content our customers want, with the highest quality picture and widest choice of channels. But this is just the beginning, and more exciting offerings will be revealed soon." MBC

Group CEO, Sam Barnett added: "MBC is proud of its leading position in producing the MENA region's best available content and in offering flagship shows enjoyed by millions of viewers and browsers across the Middle-East. Today's partnership brings together MBC's content with Ooredoo's platform in Qatar to provide an even better service for the target audience."

Ooredoo tv will now hold exclusive rights to all MBC HD channels including MBC1, MBC2, MBC3, MBC4, MBC Drama, MBC MAX, MBC Action, as well as any future HD additions. Ooredoo tv customers will also have exclusive access to MBC+ channels such as, MBC+ Drama and MBC+ Variety.

MBC Group channels are currently in the "most-watched" list on Ooredoo services, and with this partnership, Ooredoo will become the sole distributor for MBC HD in the country.

This agreement is the latest in a series of announcements for Ooredoo tv, as the company continues to invest in providing world-class entertainment for its diverse customer base.

"Since its launch in February, Ooredoo tv has seen a huge uptake with more than 40,000 subscribers in six months. One of the reasons

for this popularity is that Ooredoo tv provides the best viewing quality and most dynamic features, powered by our Supernet. The addition of HD channels and exclusive content from MBC adds another essential element to Ooredoo tv's entertainment offering," added Al-Sayed.

The first stage of the Ooredoo-MBC partnership will launch on 1 September 2016, with Ooredoo gaining exclusive access to all MBC HD content in Qatar. Mozaic TV customers, or people using other entertainment services in Qatar, will still be able to watch MBC Bollywood, MBC Masr, MBC Masr 2 and Wanasah channels on Standard Definition (SD). Existing Mozaic TV customers who want to upgrade to Ooredoo tv can simply visit any Ooredoo retail shop to register and collect a free Ooredoo tv play device.

* Ooredoo TV offers features such as 4K resolution, time shift, Android apps, parental control, thousands of hours of on-demand content and much more at no extra cost. Ooredoo TV is available from Ooredoo Shops, Starlink, TechnoBlue and Jumbo outlets. The service has no upfront charges, no equipment costs and no ongoing contracts.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	3.014
Indian Rupees	4.508
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Nepali Rupees	2.832
Singapore Dollar	225.960
Hongkong Dollar	38.953
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippine Peso	6.530
Thai Baht	8.760

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.576
Qatari Riyal	83.001
UAE Dirham	784.823
Bahraini Dinar	802.440
UAE Dirham	82.266

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.960
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.395
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213
Tunisian Dinar	138.850
Jordanian Dinar	426.370
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013
Syrian Lira	2.0153
Morocco Dirham	31.723

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.000
Euro	343.830
Sterling Pound	396.530
Canadian dollar	236.490
Turkish Lira	103.780

Swiss Franc	317.730
Australian Dollar	232.990
US Dollar Buying	300.800

GOLD

20 Gram	270.000
10 Gram	137.920
5 Gram	69.800

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.200
Canadian Dollr	235.035
Sterling Pound	395.820
Euro	343.260
Swiss Frank	291.480
Bahrain Dinar	798.885
UAE Dirhams	82.505
Qatari Riyals	83.720
Saudi Riyals	81.310
Jordanian Dinar	425.825
Egyptian Pound	33.934
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.079
Indian Rupees	4.500
Pakistani Rupees	2.881
Bangladesh Taka	3.845
Philippines Peso	6.508
Cyprus pound	159.280
Japanese Yen	4.005
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.808
Malaysian Ringgit	75.925
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.000
Thai Bhat	9.695
Turkish Lira	103.300

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY SELL	
	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.389180	0.404180
Czech Korune	0.004679	0.016679
Danish Krone	0.041990	0.046990
Euro	0.0337100	0.0346100
Norwegian Krone	0.033019	0.038219
Romanian Leu	0.086616	0.086616
Slovakia	0.008986	0.018986
Swedish Krona	0.032125	0.037125
Swiss Franc	0.308293	0.319293
Turkish Lira	0.097722	0.108022
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222456	0.234456
New Zealand Dollar	0.214063	0.223563
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.229454	0.238454
Georgina Lari	0.136374	0.136374
US Dollars	0.297850	0.302550
US Dollars Mint	0.298350	0.302550
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003341	0.003925
Chinese Yuan	0.043869	0.047369
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036858	0.039608
Indian Rupee	0.004294	0.004683

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002937	0.003117
Kenyan Shilling	0.003106	0.003106
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071596	0.077596
Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003010
Pakistan Rupee	0.002677	0.002967
Philippine Peso	0.006322	0.006622
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220116	0.230116
South African Rand	0.016576	0.025076
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001637	0.002217
Taiwan	0.009540	0.009720
Thai Baht	0.008306	0.008856
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.794360	0.802860
Egyptian Pound	0.024588	0.029706
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000180	0.000240
Jordanian Dinar	0.421721	0.430721
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019545	0.043545
Nigerian Naira	0.001244	0.001879
Omani Riyal	0.777866	0.783546
Qatar Riyal	0.082127	0.083577
Saudi Riyal	0.079433	0.080733
Syrian Pound	0.001279	0.001499
Tunisian Dinar	0.134954	0.142954
Turkish Lira	0.097722	0.108022
UAE Dirhams	0.080784	0.082484
Yemeni Riyal	0.001364	0.001444



'YET' IS CREATIVE MUSE FOR LEXUS DESIGN AWARD 2017 NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

KUWAIT: Lexus International yesterday announced its call for entries for the Lexus Design Award 2017. First launched in 2013 to stimulate ideas for a better tomorrow, Lexus is celebrating the 5th anniversary of this international design competition supporting up-and-coming designers and creators worldwide. The creative theme for the Lexus Design Award 2017 is "Yet".

"At Lexus, our 'Yet' philosophy gives us the courage to combine elements that at first seem incompatible - superior ride comfort 'Yet' exhilarating driving dynamics - for example. With 'Yet', we don't compromise; we harmonize to create synergy that reveals unexpected yet amazing new possibilities. 'Yet' is the catalyst that triggers breakthroughs, the spark that ignites an explosion of creative potential. 'Yet' drives Lexus to explore visionary frontiers of design and technology that will shape tomorrow's mobility", said Lexus International Executive Vice-President Yoshihiro Sawa.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "With the Lexus Design Award

LEXUS
DESIGN
AWARD
2017

for 2017, we look forward to witnessing the outpouring of fresh ideas in design and new thinking which is in line with Lexus' belief in the power of creativity to change the world and build a better future. Over the years, the Lexus Design Award has created a significant reputation for encouraging design talent while giving applicants a unique experience backed by

the opportunity to work with renowned designers as mentors. From our perspective, 'Yet' is the core thinking that goes behind the creation of every Lexus. Emotional 'Yet' rational. Cutting edge technology 'Yet' user-friendly. We sincerely appreciate the support from our customers for our initiatives related to this award."

Applicants are invited to submit innovative designs and original interpretations that demonstrate insight into the essence of the 'Yet' theme.

Lexus Design Award 2017 will introduce twelve finalists and their works to the design community and beyond at Milan Design Week 2017. Four of these 12 finalists will prototype their designs, mentored by globally recognized designers. The maximum production budget per prototype is JPY 3 million, equivalent to AED 107,000. Finalists will present their designs in the Lexus Milan Design Week experiential space. Judges will then assess the four prototypes to choose the Grand Prix winner who may receive the opportunity to bring his prototype to production.

Previous Lexus Design Award winners

are displaying their talent on the world stage. Emanuela Corti and Ivan Parati's Sense-Wear, the Grand Prix winner in 2015, gained further exposure at design events in Tokyo and Moscow. The Grand Prix winner of 2016, design team AMAM's "AGAR PLASTICITY ? A POTENTIAL USEFULNESS OF AGAR FOR PACKAGING AND MORE" has attracted wide interest and invitations to participate in other international exhibits. In this way, Lexus Design Award winners benefit from globe-spanning publicity and the potential for collaborative projects in the public and private sectors. Lexus is honored to encourage and spotlight emerging creative talent through the Lexus Design Award and the opportunities this yearly international design competition generates.

Entries to the Lexus Design Award 2017 competition will be accepted from now till October 16. The twelve finalists will be announced in early 2017.

* The world's largest design exhibition, also known as Salone Del Mobile, presents events and exhibits by brands and designers in many categories including furniture, fashion and textiles.

ILLINOIS LATEST STATE TO EXPAND DOMESTIC WORKERS' RIGHTS

CHICAGO: Left out of federal labor law written decades ago, nannies, housekeepers and private caregivers are gaining legal protections in a growing number of states, with Illinois becoming the latest to establish a domestic workers' "bill of rights." The Illinois rules, signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner this month, extend sexual harassment protections as well as minimum-wage pay and a guaranteed one day off in a seven-day work week to the domestic workforce, which is mostly female and immigrant heavy. Six other states have similar laws, but Illinois is now the first in the Midwest and advocates say they hope to expand their efforts into the southern states.

Backers say the laws are needed because domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation: They work alone at odd hours and often live where they work. The pay can be meagre and for immigrants, language and legal status can complicate things. Last week, a Minnesota woman was charged for allegedly beating and starving a woman she brought from China to work as a nanny up to 18 hours a day.

"Working in someone's home and the aspect of it being invisible work from the public view ... it leaves a lot of room for workers to be mistreated," said Yomara Velez, an organizer with the New York-based National Domestic Workers

Alliance. There are an estimated 2 million domestic workers in the country, 93 percent are women and one-third are immigrant, according to the Economic Policy Institute, based in Washington D.C. Household employees - including maids and cooks - weren't included in 1930s labor law, though federal rules have since changed.

New York became the first state to add basic rights for domestic workers, outlining rules for overtime pay, days off and discrimination protections in 2010. Hawaii, Massachusetts, Oregon and Connecticut also added protections. California established temporary overtime pay rules for private domestic workers in 2013 and legislators approved an expansion this week. But Gov. Jerry Brown initially rejected a 2012 version of the plan over concerns about adding regulations and the cost and financial burden for families.

Those same questions were raised in Illinois, particularly with an initial version of legislation that noted vacation and overtime requirements. Republicans opposed to an earlier draft, along with a home care association, had questions about how hours would be tracked. But State Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez, a suburban Chicago Democrat who sponsored the measure, said it was pared back, amending four state



Magdalena Zylinska a domestic worker, poses for a portrait in Elmwood Park, Illinois. —AP

laws to include domestic workers. The law then passed with bipartisan support before being signed by Rauner, a Republican.

Wendy Pollack with Chicago's Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, which led the legislative push, said the biggest hurdle was awareness, since most people don't think of people working in their homes as employees. "It was not on anybody's radar screen in any way,"

she said. Magdalena Zylinska, a Polish immigrant, said the rules were desperately needed. She's worked as a nanny, caregiver and housekeeper around Chicago for years. As a live-in caregiver, she worked seven days straight and had to share a room with the elderly woman she tended. As a nanny for two children, she worked from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and was paid \$40 daily. There were also safety concerns, such as when a

male resident of a home where she cleaned and washed clothes with another worker would undress and linger in the laundry room.

At the time, Zylinska was living in the country illegally. She'd overstayed her tourist visa and was afraid to call police. "We didn't think about anything else," she said. "We were scared we were going to lose the (housekeeping job) and lose the money."

She's since obtained legal status and said the new law will make things far easier. National advocates said they'll use the Illinois model as a blueprint. Velez said the way Illinois received bipartisan support, particularly with a GOP governor's backing, is something that can help them make their arguments elsewhere, though plans haven't been finalized. Illinois' law takes effect in 2017 and could impact an estimated 35,000 domestic workers, according to state labor statistics. Grace Padoa, now an organizer with the Chicago-based Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment, said she once worked seven day weeks as a caregiver to support her family in the Philippines. She described feeling isolated working day and night alone. "Domestic workers in Illinois will never have to endure the conditions that I did," she said. "They will have the opportunity to live better lives." — AP

GERMAN RATINGS MINNOW TAKES AIM AT US WHALES

BERLIN: The latest European challenge to the all-powerful US credit ratings agencies doesn't come from the continent's financial capital Frankfurt-but Berlin, better known for raves than banking.

"We want to become the European voice on the ratings market," declares Torsten Hinrichs, chief executive of Scope Ratings. From his office overlooking the huge Tiergarten park, once the hunting ground of Prussian kings, Hinrichs outlines grand ambitions of his own.

His firm is owned by wealthy, traditional German economic actors, including the Schoeller family whose businesses stretch from an eponymous bank to textile to oil-field equipment, and Stefan Quandt, the billionaire heir to a big chunk of BMW. Now Scope Ratings is attempting what others have failed at in challenging the dominance of the three massive ratings agencies.

Moody's, Fitch, and Standard and Poor's currently control 92 percent of the European ratings market. Companies and institutions that borrow money pay the agencies to evaluate their creditworthiness.

The highest score on offer is the sought-after "triple-A-" and the better the score, the easier it is to raise money on favourable terms. Scope notched up a big milestone in August, signing up its first client on the benchmark DAX 30 index of leading German shares in the shape of Munich-based industrial gases firm Linde.

But Scope is still far from the gargantuan scale of the US agencies, accounting for just 0.14 percent of the European market in 2014, according to the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), and around one percent more recently, Scope's own internal estimates suggest.

Scope has so far been able to raise money every time it has wanted to expand, allowing it to focus on growth rather than profitability. Hinrichs acknowledges that the agency is losing money, although he keeps the figures close to his chest.

European nuances

ESMA has licensed 26 ratings agencies in Europe, making for a fragmented market on the old continent. Scope hopes to change that, and has spent 20 million euros (\$22.7 million) opening offices in Paris, Milan and Madrid over the past three years.

The agency currently has 60 employees, 35 of them analysts. "We're in talks with other European ratings agencies," Hinrichs said. "We can all see the aim of creating a counterweight to the Americans." He argues that "there has long been a high demand for alternative approaches to ratings", which take a more nuanced view of European firms and offer "more realistic" prices compared with the "oligopolistic way of thinking" practiced by US competitors.

Scope says it uses a more subjective, less robotic method of rating, as well as rewarding the unique strengths of European companies more generously than its counterparts across the Atlantic.

Whether firms are family-owned-seen in Europe as a guarantor of stability-their cash reserves and their pensions commitments are some of the factors Scope says count for more in its model than the Americans. "Our investment-holding approach, as a family company with a long-term perspective, is understood better by a European ratings agency," said Dietmar Bochart, spokesman for Haniel.

The centuries-old investment firm based in Duisburg, in Germany's historic western industrial heartland, has been a Scope customer since the beginning of the year-while maintaining its custom with Moody's and S&P.

'Paper tiger'

Founded in 2002, Scope began by rating funds and small- and medium-sized enterprises, but has since broadened its ambitions to cover all kinds of asset classes.

On its books now are banks, businesses, and local authorities like the French seaside town of Quimper in Brittany, which signed up in 2015. By acquiring Germany's Feri EuroRating, Scope has added government debt to its portfolio, currently rating 59 different nations' bonds.

The task for the German minnow faced with the three American whales is far from easy. It's fighting a battle others have lost in the past, with German consultancy Roland Berger abandoning its own fledgling ratings agency in 2012 for lack of funds.

Politicians have bemoaned US dominance in ratings since the 2008 financial crisis, when some blamed the big ratings firms for failing to see the disaster coming. But legislative attempts to boost the European competition have sputtered. EU governments have failed to seriously enforce a recent European rule designed to support players with a market share smaller than 10 percent, leaving it little more than a "paper tiger", laments Scope CEO Hinrichs. — AFP



BERLIN: The head of Scope Ratings Torsten Hinrichs poses in Berlin. The latest European challenge to the all-powerful US credit ratings agencies doesn't come from the continent's financial capital Frankfurt — but Berlin, better known for politics than banking. — AFP

OVERNIGHT SUBWAY SERVICE IN LONDON TO SERVE 50,000 A WEEKEND

LONDON: London's new overnight subway service has begun, with plans to host 50,000 riders each weekend. London Mayor Sadiq Khan took the first Victoria line train on the new service early Saturday, chatting with passengers and marking the milestone. City leaders hope the new service will make the British capital a truly 24-hour city on the weekends and bolster its economy.

London already boasts a vibrant nightlife that attracts millions. But the service is also meant to serve doctors, cleaners and others who work graveyard shifts.

Police say they will be able to keep revelers in check. Chief Constable Paul Crowther of the British Transport Police says "someone who's had a lot to drink at eleven o'clock is no different from someone who's had a lot to drink at three o'clock." — AP

VW AND SUPPLIERS TO HOLD TALKS ON CRIPPLING DISPUTE

BERLIN: Embattled automaker Volkswagen will hold talks today with two component suppliers, in a bid to end a stand-off over car parts deliveries that has severely disrupted production at the German giant.

ES Automobilguss, which supplies cast gearbox components, and Cartrim, which makes seat covers, suspended their deliveries in August over a legal dispute with Volkswagen. VW secured temporary injunctions on August 12 ordering the two suppliers to resume deliveries.

But the part suppliers have appealed

the decision, forcing VW to slash work hours at key factories, and even suspend manufacture of the popular Golf model at its main plant in Wolfsburg, northern Germany. In a bid to resolve the stand-off, the disputing parties held talks into the early hours of Saturday, a VW spokesman told AFP, adding that they decided "jointly to postpone talks to Monday". The group "wishes to achieve a result through negotiations", although it may also be obliged to pursue legal means, added the spokesman.

The parts suppliers accuse VW of hav-

ing cut several contracts with no advance warning or compensation, leaving them no choice but to suspend deliveries to protect their own workers.

According to media reports, VW has been seeking concessions from all of its suppliers, amounting to several billion euros. Volkswagen, which also owns brands from luxury Audi to lower-end Skoda, is still in the throes of its biggest-ever crisis after it admitted in September 2015 to the massive emissions cheating scandal affected 11 million diesel engines. The revelation slashed the carmaker's

share price by 40 percent—a drop in market value of 25 billion euros in two days. VW has had to set aside billions of dollars to settle damage claims from car owners and to retrofit the affected cars.

It secured preliminary approval for a \$14.7-billion settlement from a California judge in July. But several German states are examining legal action to claw back losses to pension schemes and other holders of VW shares. The company may also be forced to pay out for environmental damages in cases brought by several US states. — AFP

BENIN REVIVES HOPES OF GETTING RAILWAY BACK ON TRACK

COTONOU: At the old train station in Benin's economic capital Cotonou, a rundown locomotive imported from France in the 1960s ardently roars to life, ready to haul 600 tons of goods to an inland city.

"If it doesn't break down, it will get there in 12 hours," says Marcel Agon, who has been stationmaster since 1985, about the 430 kilometre (270 mile) trip to Parakou. Only 20 good trains leave the small terminus each month, yet a fine new regional express passenger train with blue seats and bright paintwork, also from France, has never rolled out of Cotonou.

When French industrial giant Bolloré took Benin's rail network in hand in April 2014, railway employees thought things were getting back on track, until a court stopped work the next year. It upheld a complaint from a Beninese businessman with his own plans to knock the railroad back into shape.

Now Benin's new businessman president has promised to find a solution to the conflicting interests that have blocked the hopes of modern rail transport. "We are going to get out of this hornet's nest soon," President Patrice Talon recently told journalists.

Going off the rails
It was in November 2013 that the heads of state of little Benin and landlocked Niger to the north initially decided to establish Benirail, a multinational firm with Bolloré as a strategic partner. In barely three months, Bolloré Africa Logistics (BAL) renovated the station, paid wage arrears and imported track to link Cotonou with Niger's capital Niamey, with further plans to extend the railway to Burkina Faso and Togo and on to Abidjan in Ivory Coast.

The aim was to kickstart growth in five of the world's poorest countries in West Africa.

Railroads came to Benin, then called Dahomey, in 1936. But like other African nations the railway was just internal. No significant international network exists except in South Africa. BAL's start however was a bit too fast for its Beninese rival, millionaire businessman Samuel Dossou, CEO of Petrolin, who had his own rail plans and filed a suit against Bolloré.

This is "a project that he started himself and paid out of his own pocket for the studies," Dossou's wife and Petrolin board member Claudine Afiavi Prudencio said at the time. The days when "people can trample on the rights of Beninese businessmen in their homeland are over," she added.

Indeed, BAL had no legal authorization to begin work. In a ruling handed down on November 19, 2015, the Cotonou court of appeal upheld Dossou's complaint and ordered "the end of all work undertaken" immediately. Dossou has been trying to take charge of the rail network in the former French colony since 2004, the year the state relaxed its grip on the OCBN (Joint Benin-Niger Organization of Railways and Transports). But for lack of funds, no tenders were honored until 2010, when Dossou and the two states finally negotiated to integrate a rail network. Studies were carried out, but came to naught, according to Gustave Sonon, a former minister of public works. "Dossou didn't want the resources," Sonon said. "When I went into government, I had a choice between allowing Bolloré to continue or totally blocking the project," the former minister told AFP.

"Good progress had been made and for that reason I pushed things on a bit." Oxidising in the sun

But since the court brought work to a halt last year, a huge stock of new track intended to cover a distance of 500 kilometres (310 miles) has been lying in Cotonou, oxidising in the sun. Across the border in Niger the Bolloré group has begun to lay 150 kilometres of track in the vast and partly desert nation, which sorely needs access to the sea, and is threatening to bypass Benin. "They are threatening to build a railway through Togo and abandon the port of Cotonou if Benin doesn't choose Bolloré," said a source close to the case, who added that "in any event, everything will be negotiated in Paris."

Both Petrolin and BAL declined to comment when contacted by AFP. But Talon, a cotton tycoon who was elected president with 65 percent of the vote and took office in April, declared that negotiations were under way when he gave a press conference after returning from Paris, where he had talks with industrial magnate Vincent Bolloré. "What has been done up until now has many flaws because it was done in haste," Talon admitted, but insisted the impasse would end soon. Marcel Agon, the elderly stationmaster, sure hopes that a working compromise can be reached before his retirement in the next two or three years. "God willing, before I retire, I shall see this station full of passengers and my country moving forward," he says as the rusty old goods train rumbles towards the horizon. — AFP

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -4.11	5,467.77	5,471.88	5,477.18	5,460.89
Weighted Index	▼ -0.72	350.46	351.18	351.99	349.90
KSX 15	▼ -2.92	813.29	816.21	818.78	812.14

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91
IKARUS	33.0	32.0	161,590	5,281	14	32.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400
NAPESCO	740	850	3,448	2,480	4	690
ENERGYH	46.5	45.0	22,499	1,030	11	46.0
GPI	40.0	39.0	2,616,417	103,127	35	39.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93
Oil & Gas			2,803,954	111,899	64	764.67

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KFOUC	166	162	20,363	3,299	4	166
BPCC	495	490	27,314	13,506	6	490
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650
ALQURAIN	200	196	168,704	37,372	20	200
Basic Materials			236,381	54,176	30	943.29

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCEM	380	380	12,349	4,693	1	380
REFRI	340	340	880	231	2	340
CABLE	385	380	31,293	11,891	4	385
SHIP	166	166	60,000	9,960	2	166
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	980
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66
ACICO	280	280	100	28	1	280
GMCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
NICBM	194	194	4,940	958	1	194
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63
AGLTY	480	480	17,927	8,605	6	480
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5
KGL	43.5	42.5	460	20	2	43.5
KPCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170
HUMANISOFT	1,590	1,590	52,374	81,746	13	1,590
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
SAFWAN	380	355	52,938	19,513	6	380
GFC	27.0	27.0	500	14	1	27.0
MAYADEEN	29.5	29.0	1,286,200	37,300	14	29.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680
MTCC	58	58	1,019,000	59,102	18	58
UPAC	710	710	5,500	3,905	1	710
ALAFCCO	216	216	99,170	21,421	5	216
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72
SCEM	81	81	33,000	2,673	1	81
GCEM	79	78	5,000	393	2	79
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75
FCEM	74	73	855,477	62,461	8	73
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78
Industrials			3,536,908	324,913	88	1177.22

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KSH	156	156	4,000	624	2	156
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106
CATTL	244	242	17,301	4,209	3	242
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124
POULT	190	176	927	175	4	190
FOOD	2,480	2,480	20,000	49,200	1	2,480
Consumer Goods			42,228	54,208	10	1228.79

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208
Health Care			0	0	0	1057.06
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300
SULTAN	55	55	24,547	1,350	3	55
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198
OULAFUEL	122	116	527,723	61,912	56	118
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85
JAZEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	840
SOOR	122	116	33,179	4,012	16	116
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146
ZIMAH	41.0	40.5	276,560	11,249	15	41.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130
Mezzan	1,100	1,100	17,200	18,820	3	1,100
Consumer Services			879,209	97,443	93	912.54

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
ZAIN	340	330	583,112	195,305	50	330
OOREDOO	1,040	1,020	4,612	4,749	5	1,020
HITSATELECOM	39.5	39.0	742,000	29,063	18	39.5
VVA	930	930	38,043	35,380	47	930
Telecommunications			1,367,767	264,497	121	591.65

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
NBK	600	590	113,053	66,842	12	590
GBK	228	228	36,906	8,411	4	228
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340
ABK	320	310	11,350	3,529	2	320
ALMUTAHED	390	385	171,398	66,003	9	385
KIB	194	190	283,342	54,347	10	192
BURG	330	325	110,066	36,271	11	330
KFIN	470	465	345,972	161,432	22	465
BOUBYAN	385	375	6,270,429	2,390,223	98	380
AUB	194	194	160,000	31,040	4	194
ITHMR	38.5	37.5	2,638,115	100,220	38	38.0
WARBANK	172	170	325,461	55,356	59	170
Banks			10,466,112	2,973,673	269	790.14

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KINS	285	285	10,000	2,650	1	285
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465
WINS	108	108	1,001	108	2	108
KUWAITRE	190	190	5,064	952	1	190
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.5
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355
Insurance			16,065	3,720	4	1000.70

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOUK	34.5	34.0	578,500	19,683	6	34.0
KRE	52	51	540,562	28,024	13	52
URC	108	100	27,580	2,887	8	104
NRE	78	78	182,000	14,196	5	78
SRE	360	355	109,900	39,515	2	355
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550
AREEC	142	142	5,509	782	2	142
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5
ARABREC	31.5	31.0	56,000	1,739	4	31.5
ERESCO	45.0	43.5	306,000	13,483	13	44.0
MABANEE	800	800	155,000	124,000	2	800
INJAZZAT	71	71	10,750	763	1	71
INVESTORS	22.5	22.0	976,290	21,963	17	22.5
IRC	28.5	27.5	713,883	19,983	22	28.5
ALTIJARIA	76	76	122,000	9,272	3	76
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.5
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60
ALAQARIA	21.5	21.5	2,500	54	1	21.5
MAZAYA	114	114	100,000	11,400	3	114
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
TUJARA	37.0	37.0	5,00			



THE NEW GENERATION CLA ARRIVES IN KUWAIT

AN EXCEPTIONAL STYLE REBEL THAT SURPASSES ALL NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

KUWAIT: Bringing sporty proportions and a dynamic design with sensuously rounded contours, the unmistakable new CLA has arrived in Kuwait. Available at A R Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company showroom, the authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, the new generation CLA's profile is sleek like a coupé, yet offers room for five. From its diamond radiator grille with pins in chrome to its LED tail lamps, there may be no car on the road offering such eye-catching style. In undertaking the facelift modifications, the Mercedes-Benz designers have subtly honed the distinctive look and upgraded the interior.

"The CLA has always been highly popular in Kuwait, and we have no doubt the new generation will easily match its predecessor. Although subtle, the changes offer a greater driver satisfaction, increased convenience, innovation, comfort and enjoyment, and an irresistible exterior for the style conscious driver," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer,

Abdul Rahman Albisher and Zaid Alkazemi Company. With the HANDS-FREE ACCESS option loading your shopping has become more easier and convenient. This system allows the boot lid to be opened without any physical contact. HANDS-FREE ACCESS is now included as part of the KEYLESS-GO Convenience package. The Smartphone Integration package allows iPhones to be integrated on board (iPhones via Apple CarPlay) and operated using voice commands or the Controller on the centre console.

The interior

The interior also benefits from features such as new seat covers and trim parts, as well as chrome-plated controls. The highlight here is a much slimmer-looking free standing 20.3 cm (8-inch) Media Display with a new-style glass cover. The new-style dials and red needles in the instrument cluster make it easier to read the display.

Meticulous attention to detail is also evident from the

silver chrome finish to the controls and to the fascia and switches in the doors for the electrically adjustable seats, as well as from the chrome surround to the stowage compartment in the centre console.

Latest AMG design idiom: CLA 45 4MATIC

"Avant-garde meets Driving Performance" is the motto for the Mercedes-AMG models CLA 45 4MATIC. With a peak output of 280 kW (381 hp) and maximum torque of 475 Nm they are among the most powerful vehicles in their segment.

An AMG Aerodynamics package is now available as an optional extra. This comprises a larger front splitter, additional flics, a black AMG spoiler lip at the rear plus spoiler lips over the simulated air outlets on either side at the back. New 48.3 cm (19-inch) AMG cross-spoke light-alloy wheels with 235/35 R 19 tyres on 8 J x 19 ET 48 are available as an option. There are two colour variants - a matt

black or a titanium grey finish - in each case with a high-sheen rim flange.

The equipment features: LED High Performance headlamps

The sporty, expressive design of the CLA has now been honed still further in a facelift involving new bumpers and new light-alloy wheels. Both vehicles are fitted with LED High Performance headlamps (GCC Standard). Their colour temperature is closer to that of daylight than xenon headlamps, for example. This is more restful on the eyes and therefore provides relief to the driver at night. The LED High Performance headlamps are combined here with tail lights with automatic intensity control. These reduce the dazzling effect for vehicles following. The new generation CLA is available at A R Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company showroom, in Shuwaikh. To book a test drive, please call 24950000 or visit our showroom.



MIXED SIGNALS FROM THE FED HURT DOLLAR

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: New developments in the foreign exchange markets this week the British pound was the outperformer due to more mix signals from the Fed and optimistic data from the United Kingdom. Several Fed members have come out this week to voice their support for a possible rate hike in September including voting member New York President William Dudley and San Francisco President John Williams. As the recent FOMC minutes for the July meeting showed policy makers at a stalemate over the next move, these comments come in contrast to the existing market expectations.

During the last meeting, the FOMC disappointed markets when it did not come out with clear indication as to what to come from the next Federal Reserve meeting. The release of the meeting minutes this week showed that policy members are conflicted as to the appropriateness of the Fed's next interest rate hike.

Officials were conflicted on whether solid job gains were enough to justify a rate increase while inflation remained stubbornly subdued. Indeed, as per the FOMC's inflation assumptions, data released this week showed consumer prices running flat for the month of July while labor market remained robust with unemployment claims coming out better than expected. Combined with solid figures out of the UK, the US dollar index saw a fall from 95.749 at the beginning of the week to a low of 94.077 before closing the week at 94.487.

After recording daily losses for most of the month of August, the pound sterling had a positive week performance as the United Kingdom's economy showed resilience in the post-Brexit environment. The Pound rebounded amid strong retail sales, better than expected claimant count change, and positive inflation figures. The GBP/USD started the week at 1.2900 and made its way up to a high of 1.3184 before closing the week off at 1.3074.

The euro on the other hand has been climbing from its post-Brexit lows for most of this past month. Much of the upside has been attributed to weakness in the US dollar, as the odds of a Fed rate hike this year have gradually diminished in recent weeks. The EUR/USD pair movements trailed the British Pound's as the pair opened the week at 1.1159, reached a high of 1.1367 and closed the week off at 1.1325. In Japan, the USD/JPY also felt the US dollar weakness as the pair dropped from 101.34 and fluctuated around the 100.00 psychological support level. The pair was even able to shrug off poor Japanese GDP figures as the reaction to the FOMC's meeting minutes held more weight in the market. The USD/JPY

closed the week off at 100.24.

In the commodities market, Gold was on the rise on the back of the USD's retreat. Furthermore, the risks in this current negative rate environment are also supporting the gold safe-haven demand. Gold closed the week at \$1,341.22. Oil prices have also continued to rise as an output freeze by key producers was said to be gaining traction. The latest rally in crude prices was triggered by comments from former OPEC head who said leading OPEC members are pumping at near capacity and can afford to cap output at current levels as they approach their respective production ceilings. Also, he mentioned that "All the conditions are set for an agreement," and "most of the big producers have gained all market shares they could gain." Brent crude opened the week at 47.14 and closed at 50.88.

FOMC conflicted

The FOMC's minutes for the July 26 monetary meeting showed officials were conflicted over the urgency to raise interest rates. Officials are torn on whether solid job gains are enough to bring a rate hike in large part due to a lack of visible inflation pressures when they ultimately decided to pass on July.

Many analysts now believe the labor market is at or at least close to maximum employment, but inflation acceleration has been only modest and continues to run below the committee's longer-run 2% target. While the meeting did make any explicit reference to the timing of the next potential hike, the confliction in policy makers means officials are likely to need more concrete evidence that inflation is picking up and economic growth is strengthening before a hike can be justified.

Inflation running flat

Consumer prices ran flat in July for the first time in five months following a 0.2% advance in June. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 0.1 percent, less than projected. The energy index declined in July do to a sharp drop in gasoline prices while the food index was unchanged. The index for all items less food and energy rose, but posted its smallest increase since March. As a result, the all items index was unchanged after rising in each of the four previous months. US inflation continues to tread below the Fed's 2 percent goal softening the outlook for higher rates by the Fed.

Housing continues to improve

US home construction unexpectedly accelerated in July to the fastest pace in five months, indicating the housing industry

remains an area of support for the economy. The Commerce Department data showed Residential starts increased 2.1 percent to a 1.211 million annualized rate exceeding all forecasts. Building permits which forecast future construction projects were relatively unchanged. The positive data goes in line with US's healthy labor market as robust hiring and cheap financing allow for more home purchases.

Manufacturers remain optimistic

The Philly Fed index of manufacturing activity in the region rose nearly 5 points to 2.0 in August, matching market expectations. "The diffusion index for current general activity moved from a negative reading to a marginally positive reading, while the indicators for new orders and employment suggested continued general weakness in business conditions," said The Federal reserve Bank of Philadelphia. "Of the current broad indicators, the diffusion index for shipments recorded the strongest reading. The respondents were confident about future growth, as their forecasts of future activity showed notable improvement."

Unemployment claims fall

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell more than expected last week, reinforcing views of labor market strength that could encourage the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates soon. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 262,000 for the week ended August 13, the Labor Department said. Claims have now been below 300,000, a threshold associated with a strong labor market, for 76 straight weeks and labor market is now viewed as either at or near full employment.

ECB minutes

At the ECB's July 20 monetary policy meeting, it was revealed that policy makers thought it was too soon at the time to discuss new policy measures, as they wanted to wait until the extent of the economic disruption from the Brexit vote become clearer.

ECB officials also expressed concerns how Europe's weak banking sector could hamper the central bank's efforts to reduce loan costs across the region. Bank stocks fell sharply in the wake of the UK referendum. Overall, there was wide agreement that downside risks to the economic outlook for the euro area had increased and the Governing Council felt the need to reiterate its capacity and readiness to act, if warranted, to achieve its objectives.

Sentiment in eurozone

The ZEW Indicator of Economic Sentiment for Germany gained 7.3 points compared to the previous month, now standing at 0.5 percent in August. According to the report, sentiment has partly recovered from the Brexit shock. Political risks within and outside the European Union continue to inhibit a more optimistic economic outlook for Germany. However, uncertainty about the resilience of the EU banking sector persists.

Furthermore, sentiment in the eurozone also increased. ZEW's Indicator of Economic Sentiment for the Eurozone has risen by 19.3 points to a reading of 4.6 points. Finally, the assessment of the current economic situation in the Euro area improved 2.1 points to a value of minus 10.3 for the month of August.

UK inflation

The annual inflation rate in the United Kingdom rose to 0.6 percent in July from 0.5 percent in June. Although the small increase in the rate between June and July takes it to the highest seen since November 2014, it is still relatively low in the historic context. The main contributors to the increase in the rate were rising prices for motor fuels, alcoholic beverages and accommodation services, and a smaller fall in food prices than a year ago. The Office of National Statistics said there were no obvious Brexit effects and the Bank of England had mentioned that inflation may rise over the short-term after Brexit.

Furthermore, price of goods bought and sold by UK manufacturers also rose in the year to July 2016 following 2 years of continuous fall. The total input price index rose 3.3 percent, compared with a rise of 1.7 percent last month. The main upwards contributions to the index came from imported parts and equipment, with smaller, but notable, upward contributions from home food materials and other imported materials.

UK labor

Employment data came in as expected in the UK as most numbers were relatively flat for the month of July. The Office for National Statistics said the unemployment rate remained at 4.9 percent in the three months to June, in line with forecasts while the claimant count fell by 8,600 in July, compared to expectations for an increase of 9,500 people. Meanwhile, the average earnings index, including bonuses, rose by 2.4 percent in the three months to June also in line with forecasts and after increasing by 2.3 percent in the three months to May.

UK retail sales

The UK Office for National Statistics released positive sales figures as consumers seemed unfazed in the post-Brexit environment. Retail sales rose 1.4 percent, ahead of a 0.1 percent increase analysts had expected. It seems that a weaker sterling encouraged shoppers to help push up sales, especially luxury items such as watches and jewelry. Meanwhile, core retail sales gained 1.5 percent last month following a 0.9 percent drop in June and year-on-year retail sales increased 5.9 percent, compared to June's 4.3 percent.

Japan GDP stagnates

The Japanese economy hardly budged last quarter as gross domestic product grew just 0.048 percent from the previous quarter, and an annualized 0.2 percent, during the April-June period. Economists however believe that the recent stimulus injection by the BoJ might add somewhere between 0.5 percent and 1.6 percent on an annualized basis during the July-September quarter. Economists said such stimulus initiatives as public works investment and support for consumption will drive up real economic growth by around 0.2 percent in the fiscal year ending March 2017. However, fiscal policy can do only so much to underpin the economy as companies are becoming more cautious with domestic capital spending due to the appreciating yen.

RBA meeting

In coming to their decision to cut interest rates, members from the Reserve Bank of Australia noted that the recent CPI data had confirmed that inflation was likely to remain low for some time. They also observed that while prospects for growth were positive, there was room for stronger growth, which could be assisted by lower interest rates. As such, the RBA lowered its overnight rate to a record low of 1.5 percent. The decision to ease monetary policy boiled down to persistently weak inflation as annual inflation fell to the weakest in 17 years at 1 percent in the second quarter. The unemployment rate has dropped to 5.7 percent in Australia as 26,200 jobs were added in July. However, the jobs growth was entirely driven by part-time employment as full-time jobs fell. Part-time employment rose by an estimated 71,600, while the number of full-time workers dropped by 45,400. Finally, wages ran flat at 0.5 percent for the second quarter of 2016.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30110
The USDKWD opened at 0.30110 yesterday morning.



NISSAN AL-BABTAIN'S LATEST PRICES AND OFFERS ACROSS THE PATROL RANGE 'GOING ANYWHERE' NOW EVEN EASIER

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the authorized agent of Nissan in the State of Kuwait has made owning a Nissan Patrol, the region's iconic SUV, even more attractive with a special price and a free one-year or 20,000 km service package with every purchase of Patrol XE, SE, Platinum and Platinum City models.

Meticulously engineered for over 60 years, the Patrol is Nissan's flagship SUV model with a rich heritage and passionate following in the Middle East that dates back to the 1950s. With refreshed styling enhancements of the region's iconic SUV,

the 2016 Nissan Patrol adds more style to its already impressive 'go anywhere' versatility, technology and comfort.

The Nissan Patrol is a legend among SUVs, encapsulating senses of adventure, luxury, business and family life together in one rugged yet distinguished package. We are delighted to make owning a model from our extensive Patrol range even more appealing through this fantastic offer.

The YM2016 Nissan Patrol is offered in VK56DE - 5.6L V8 Petrol engine and VK56VD/VE - 5.6L V8 Petrol Engine equipped grades with 6-speed Manual transmission on

XE and SE-T1 grades, 5-speed Automatic transmission with manual mode on SE-T2, SE-Platinum, SE-Platinum City, and 7-speed automatic transmission with manual mode, LE-Platinum and LE-Platinum City grades.

Customers can avail the offer at all Nissan showrooms at Al-Rai or Ahmadi. Nissan Al-Babtain is committed to continuously offer high vehicle service standards in Kuwait and the best after-sale services to its customers. Nissan recommends that regular servicing and general vehicle maintenance is integral to reliability, roadworthiness and safety of the vehicle, driver and

their family and society at large.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years, Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long-term vision. These astounding

results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information technology, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main activity within Al-Babtain Group's business, which represents some of the bestselling brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipment. The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. (AABC) is proud to be the exclusive agent and distributor of leading Japanese, European (French) and Chinese vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Infiniti Renault & Citroen.

ALGHANIM AUTOMOTIVE'S FREE SUMMER CHECKUP

KUWAIT: In one of summer's biggest auto service campaigns created to offer customers maximum value and highest safety standards, Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to offer free checkup on all Chevrolet vehicles being serviced at the Chevrolet service centers, from August 15th till October 9th, 2016.

This special promotion entails a professional and detailed checkup that guarantees the safety and peace of mind of all Chevrolet passengers. Performed by a



Ensure Your Peace of Mind with the Free Summer Check Up



team of professionally trained service advisors, the checkup includes a thorough inspection on all aspects related to car performance that may get affected under the brutal summer heat, such as the cooling system, the A/C system and brakes and tires, all at no cost to the customer.

Once the checkup has been performed, customers will receive an exhaustive report detailing the condition of the car, the required maintenance and pricing. Customers will also get an instant 30 percent discount on spare parts and 10 percent discount on labor for work

ordered out of the technical report provided by the service advisors. And because Chevrolet Alghanim is committed to total customer satisfaction, the promotion also includes free car vacuum and wash as well as free nitrogen fill.

The discounts mentioned above are valid for a period of 2 months from the date of inspection, which reflects Chevrolet Alghanim's dedication to customer excellence, cementing the company's reputation as Kuwait's best customer-centric automotive company. With great savings on maintenance cost and professional service, customers are guaranteed to enjoy a peace of mind this summer season when the risks of their cars' malfunctioning is high but can be averted by taking preventive measures early on.

The Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Service Center in Shuwaikh is the biggest and most advanced automotive service center in the world, with 73,000 sq m of built up area, servicing 1,000 vehicles every day. Throughout the facility, advanced technology is used to provide customers with reliable service performed by a team of proficiently trained technicians, on-site and ready to offer necessary advice and support as well as cost-effective operations to customers' vehicles.

In addition, the service center is furnished with spacious and comfortable lounges for customers whose cars are being attended and serviced. With a variety of TV channels, ready-to-use Internet stations, free wireless access and KromOzone shopping outlets, customers can kick back, relax, and enjoy a sip of coffee from the café on-site as they utilize their time more effectively.

Valid from August 15th until October 9th, 2016, Chevrolet Alghanim encourages customers to take advantage of this free checkup and service discount promotion before it's too late, and certainly before their cars get untimely malfunctioned in the middle of the day when the sun gets mercilessly hotter.



LULU GROUP PLANS TO INVEST \$300M IN KERALA PROJECT

NEW LULU SHOPPING MALL TO COME UP IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

TRIVANDRUM: Lulu Group, the Abu Dhabi-based international retailer, is developing its second Lulu Shopping Mall, hotel and international convention in Kerala capital Thiruvananthapuram. Spread over 19 acres of land located at the National Highway in Akkulam, this will be the second biggest shopping mall in the country after the Lulu mall in Kochi.

"Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation stone for the mixed use project in a glittering function presided over by the Leader of Opposition, Ramesh Chennithala and other prominent personalities including ministers, MPs, MLAs," said Yusuf Ali MA, Managing director of Lulu Group. Slated to open by early 2019, it will house Lulu hypermarket as anchor store and will include some of the best brands in fashion, cosmetics, home furnishing, jewellery, and will also feature an amusement center, multiplex, and the biggest food court.

Being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,000 crores (\$300 million), Lulu Mall has built up area of more than 2 million square feet in



four floors along with hotel and Convention center. The project is the largest private investment in Kerala in recent times.

In his speech Kerala Chief Minister assured all his support in making this project a grand success and provide jobs to the educated youth of Kerala. Other

attractions include a family amusement center, a food court with a capacity of 3,500 guests, restaurants, coffee shops and a nine-screen multiplex. The mall, designed by UK-based Design International consultants, will have parking for 3,000 cars with easy access from all main roads and will

adopt latest traffic management system. The shopping mall will be environmental friendly and will adopt LEED certificate specification for eco friendly.

The project also includes a 150-room luxury hotel which will be adjacent to the mall and an international convention center.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 14 August 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 7 August - 11 August 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

- (Sunday 7/8): Mohammad Shawkat Othman Ahmed, Hamad Abdulrazak Ahmad Al-Qabandy
- (Monday 8/8): Laila Barfaid, Talal Hadi Ajaj Al-Azmi
- (Tuesday 9/8): Faisal Ali Salman Salmeen, Najat Abdulnabi Abdulreda Abdulkareem
- (Wednesday 10/8): Abdullah Mohammed Jassem Al-Hamar, Abduljaljeel Khalil Al-Akrawi
- (Thursday 11/8): Kamal Aldeen Mohammad Sayed, Khalil Ibrahim Ali Boushehri

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw line-up includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the millionaire draw! Five reasons why the Al-Danah

account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES YAWMI ACCOUNT WINNERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Abdullah Ismael Khaleel Fawaz
2. Majid Soultan Haji Basheer
3. Abeer Ali Ahmad Al Ghanim
4. Jawad Khaleel Ali Sanaseeri
5. Majid Hilal Abdulhussein Al Tameemi

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their



account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If

the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.



DALLAS: Construction continues on an Emerges emergency room facility on Thursday. —AP

AS THE NUMBER OF FREESTANDING ERS GROWS, SO DOES SCRUTINY

DALLAS: Freestanding emergency centers have sprung in recent years across the suburban landscape, taking root in affluent neighborhoods and directly challenging nearby medical clinics and hospitals.

Five years ago there were a couple dozen stand-alone emergency centers in Texas, and now there are more than 200. Colorado, Ohio and other states also have seen steady growth. As these centers offer another choice for people tired of deflating wait times at hospital emergency rooms, their escalating numbers are sending ripples across the health-care field. Critics say they do little to help those in rural America with dire medical needs, siphon away skilled emergency physicians and too often stick patients with overinflated bills.

Groups such as the Texas Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers counter that people are getting an unprecedented level of care as the centers open close to consumers, don't keep them waiting, provide an ER physician around-the-clock, and are equipped for any medical emergency.

222 TO 360

Researchers with Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston conducted a study that found the number of stand-alone emergency departments grew from 222 in 2009 to 360 across 30 states as of March 2015. The most are in Texas, which in 2009 adopted a law that allowed private, for-profit ventures to provide the kind of emergency services that hospitals do. "The idea of delivering fast, quick, high-quality emergency care ... is very innovative," said Dr. Jeremiah Schuur, lead author of the Brigham and Women's study published last month.

The freestanding ERs locate in zip codes with an attractive payer mix, Schuur said, meaning ones where more people are privately insured, have higher incomes and there are fewer Medicaid reimbursements. They're more likely to open in parts of Texas already served by traditional hospital emergency rooms, he said. "Depending on your viewpoint, they offer competition or a duplication of services," Schuur said. There doesn't appear to be market incentive for many of the stand-alone centers to open in

rural areas that are home to poorer populations. At least 45 hospitals in less populated parts of the U.S. have closed since 2010, and a quarter of those were in Texas, according to the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals.

So far, the freestanding ERs have not filled the void left by those closings. "It is important for policymakers to know that this is a service that's locating to serve one part of the population and not everyone," Schuur said. A spokesman for the Texas Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers did not return phone messages seeking comment, but John McGee, an association board member, told The Dallas Morning News this month that rules dictating federal reimbursement rates and other regulatory hurdles make it difficult to open locations in poor areas.

As hospitals face greater competition in providing emergency services, they're also finding it more difficult to retain skilled ER doctors. Grant Douglass, president of Southwest Medical Associates, which contracts with hospitals and clinics in primarily rural parts of Texas to provide ER physicians, estimates that at least 1,500 doctors have been lured from Texas hospitals with the promise of better pay, less stress and a smaller volume of patients.

"It's created a tremendous strain on us to staff the small rural (hospitals)," Douglass said, adding that his company often must double the pay of doctors to ensure it can provide adequate staffing levels for hospitals. But drawing the greater attention from consumer advocates are higher billing rates that can be found at freestanding ERs when compared to urgent care centers.

An analysis by the Colorado-based Center for Improving Value in Health Care found the cost of treatment at an emergency facility exceeded the rates at an urgent care center by \$400 to more than \$800. And of the top 10 reasons Coloradans used a stand-alone ER in 2014, seven were for nonlife-threatening conditions like sore throats and bronchitis. "People are going to these freestanding emergency departments for non-emergent care," said Jonathan Mathieu with CIVHC. "It's for things that could likely wait." — AP



RICHARDSON, TEXAS: A worker makes repairs to an exterior wall of a First Choice Emergency Room on Thursday. —AP

JUDGE REJECTS \$100M SETTLEMENT IN KEY CASE WITH UBER DRIVERS

SAN FRANCISCO: A federal judge has rejected a legal settlement that would have divided up to \$100 million among about 380,000 Uber drivers to resolve claims the ride-hailing service has been exploiting them by treating them as independent contractors instead of employees.

US District Judge Edward Chen declared the deal unfair in a decision issued late Thursday, complicating Uber's efforts to remove the legal threat of having its drivers classified as employees. That distinction would give Uber's drivers more rights and benefits. That would in turn force the San Francisco company to change its business in ways that would cause its expenses to soar and potentially undercut its plans to eventually sell its stock in an initial public offering. Uber expressed its disappointment with Chen's ruling in a statement that said the company will consider its options. The alternatives include taking the case to trial, awaiting rulings in two appeals that would bolster Uber's cause, or negotiating a revised settlement with the drivers in an attempt to appease Chen.

In another case earlier this year, Uber rival Lyft initially had a similar settlement with its drivers rejected by a different judge. Lyft raised its initial offer from \$12.5 million to \$27 million, good enough to win preliminary approval from US District Judge Vince Chhabria in June.

Shannon Liss-Riordan, the lead attorney representing the Uber drivers, said she thinks a revised settlement is possible in this lawsuit, too. If not, she is prepared to take the case to trial, she told The Associated Press in an email. In that event, the case could be whittled to about 8,000 drivers because of binding arbitration clauses that Uber holds. "I am disappointed the judge did not approve the settlement, but I understand and I have heard him," Liss-Riordan wrote.

Conditions

The agreement would have required Uber to pay at least \$84 million to drivers in California and Massachusetts who had been picking up riders who requested them through the company's service dating back to August 2009. Uber would have paid another \$16 million to the drivers if the company's market value increased by 1.5 times within the first year of its IPO. If everyone covered in the lawsuit had filed for payments, the California drivers would have received an average of \$10 to \$1,950 apiece and the Massachusetts drivers would have received an average of \$12 to \$979. Uber is currently a privately held company backed by venture capitalists and other investors who have valued the business at more than \$60 billion, though some analysts question the reliability of that figure. —AP

EXPERTS USE DRIFT MODELING TO DEFINE NEW MH370 SEARCH ZONE

HUNTING FOR THE MISSING PARTS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA: Experts hunting for the missing Malaysian airliner are attempting to define a new search area by studying where in the Indian Ocean the first piece of wreckage recovered from the lost Boeing 777 - a wing flap - most likely drifted from after the disaster that claimed 239 lives, the new leader of the search said. Officials are planning the next phase of the deep-sea sonar search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in case the current two-year search of 120,000 square kilometers turns up nothing, said Australian Transport Safety Bureau chief commissioner Greg Hood, who took over leadership of the bureau last month.

However, a new search would require a new funding commitment, with Malaysia, Australia and China agreeing in July that the \$160 million search will be suspended once the current stretch of ocean southwest of Australia is exhausted unless new evidence emerges that would pinpoint a specific location of the aircraft. "If it is not in the area which we defined, it's going to be somewhere else in the near vicinity," Hood said in an interview this week.

Further analysis of the wing fragment known as a flaperon found on Reunion Island off the African coast in July last year - 16 months after the plane went missing - will hopefully help narrow a possible next search area outside the current boundary. Six replicas of the flaperon will be sent to Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization's oceanography department in the island state of Tasmania where scientists will determine whether it is the wind or the currents that affect how they drift, Hood said. This will enable more accurate drift modeling than is currently available.

If more money becomes available, the Australian bureau, which is conducting the search on Malaysia's behalf, plans to fit the flaperons with satellite beacons and set them adrift at different points in the southern Indian Ocean around March 8 next year - the third anniversary of the disaster - and track their movements.

Analyzed for clues

Meanwhile, barnacles found on the flaperon and an adjacent wing flap that washed up on Tanzania in June are being analyzed for clues to the latitudes they might have come from. The flap is in the Australian bureau's headquarters in Canberra where it has been scoured for clues by accident investigators.

Peter Foley, the bureau's director of Flight 370 search operations since the outset, said the enhanced drift modeling would hopefully narrow the next search area to a band of 5 degrees of latitude, or 550 kilometers (340 miles).

"Even the best drift analysis is not going to narrow it down to X-marks-the-spot," Foley said.

Some critics argue that the international working group that defined the current search area - which includes experts from the US National Transportation Safety Board, Britain's Air Accidents Investigation Branch, the plane's



CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA: Peter Foley, Australian Transport Safety Bureau director of Flight 370 search operations, stands beside a stack of replica wing flaps on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016, at the bureau's headquarters. —AP

manufacturer Boeing, Australia's Defense Science and Technology Group, satellite firm Inmarsat and electronics company Thales - made a crucial mistake by concluding that the most likely scenario was that no one was at the controls when the plane hit the ocean after flying more than five hours.

The airliner veered far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. What happened to the plane has become one of the biggest mysteries in aviation, with a wide range of theories, including that a hijacker could have killed everyone on board early in the flight by depressurizing the plane.

The current search area was defined by analysis of a final satellite signal from the plane that indicated it had run out of fuel. Scientists have determined how far the plane could have travelled from a height of up to 12,200 meters (40,000 feet) after both engines lost power.

But critics who favor the theory that Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah hijacked the plane argue that he could have glided the plane beyond the current search area. Some say he could have made a controlled ditch at sea in order to minimize debris and make the plane vanish as completely as possible. Officials say Zaharie flew a similar route on his home flight simulator only weeks before the disaster.

Foley said his bureau's analysts were working on the flap to ascertain whether or not it was deployed when the plane hit the water. They will test their hypothesis with the Boeing accident

investigation team to validate their findings.

Recent analysis of the final satellite signals also suggest the plane was descending at a rate of between 3,700 meters (12,000 feet) and 6,100 meters (20,000 feet) a minute before it crashed. A rate of 600 meters (2,000 feet) a minute would be typical of a controlled descent. "The rate of descent combined with the position of the flap - if it's found that it is not deployed - will almost certainly rule out either a controlled ditch or glide," Foley said. "If it's not in a deployed state, it validates, if you like, where we've been looking," he said.

Crews have not given up hope of finding the plane in the current search area, which because of bad weather and 20-meter (65-foot) swells could take them until December to finish scanning. Less than 10,000 square kilometers (4,000 square miles) of seabed, which is outside the original 60,000-square-kilometer (23,000-square-mile) high-priority search zone, remain to be searched.

More than 20 sonar contacts require closer examination by a sonar-equipped underwater drone. These are between 2,700 kilometers (1,700 miles) and 1,900 kilometers from the Australian port of Fremantle where the search ships are based. "We are still hopeful and optimistic," said Hood. Foley said finding the plane was the only chance of the solving the mystery of what happened aboard Flight 370. "We will never know what happened to that aircraft until we find it," Foley said. —AP

FROM SOLO CUP TO AN ASTEROID: NASA'S NEWEST SPACE MISSION

MIAMI: The idea for a device that could unveil the origins of life in our solar system began with a Solo cup. Next month, an invention inspired by that plastic, disposable beverage cup will launch into space aboard the United States' first robotic mission aimed at scooping up 4.5 billion-year-old dust from an asteroid.

The \$800 million NASA mission is called OSIRIS-REx, which stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer. The unmanned spacecraft will travel to an asteroid near Earth called Bennu to collect space dust that may reveal how the materials necessary for life—such as carbon and ice—made their way to our planet.

"We seek samples that date back to the very dawn of our solar system," said Dante Lauretta, OSIRIS-REx principal investigator with the University of Arizona, Tucson. Launching September 8 atop an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, the 4,600 pound (2,087 kilogram) sport utility vehicle-sized spaceship is set to embark on a multiyear mission, returning its bounty of space dirt in 2023.

Scatter dust or collect it?

The idea is not to land on the asteroid, but approach closely and "high-five" it for several seconds to gather some debris that can be studied more closely back on Earth. The problem is that in zero gravity, such a device could just scatter dust instead of collecting it. So, years ago, Lockheed Martin engineer Jim Harris began practicing with a reverse-vacuum concept in his driveway.

He placed a plastic Solo cup-pierced with some strategically placed holes—with the rim facing down on the ground. Then he used an air compressor to blow air through the cup's base. The dirt it spewed out through the holes was collected in an external container.

Harris first called his creation Mucav, "vacuum" spelled backwards. But the final name is TAGSAM, an acronym for the Touch and Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism. "Over the past 10

years, it has come a long way from a Solo cup in the driveway to what you see now," said Rich Kuhns, OSIRIS-REx program manager with Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Denver.

Follow-on to Japan mission

TAGSAM aims to return far more material than a similar mission by the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency that launched in 2003. The Hayabusa mission encountered some difficulties, and even crash-landed into the surface of its target, but managed to return just under a milligram of material from the asteroid Itokawa in 2010.

NASA's spacecraft is designed to collect at least 60 grams (2.1 ounces), but could get much more. Tests have shown it picks up an average of 300 grams.

The sample will not be taken until July 2020, allowing the spacecraft time to closely study the asteroid so scientists can pick the most promising region, says Gordon Johnston, an OSIRIS-REx program executive at NASA headquarters. "We will approach Bennu, map it, orbit it, study it and pick the safest and most scientifically interesting place to pick a sample from before going in and attempting the sample," he told reporters.

"Three quarters of the sample will be set aside for future researchers-for the science questions we haven't figured out to even ask yet."

NASA has also promised four percent of the sample to its major partner in the effort, Canada, and another half-percent to Japan. Although the Japanese mission proved that asteroid sampling and return can be done, NASA based much of the OSIRIS-REx's design on a previous US mission launched in 1999, called Stardust, which returned cosmic material from a distant comet's tail. "Stardust told us a lot about comets, which form way in the outer part of the solar system," Lauretta said. "OSIRIS-REx is bringing back samples that are closer to home and are probably the likely candidates that delivered these key, prebiotic compounds to our Earth."



IN SPACE: This NASA TV video grab shows US astronaut Kate Rubins adjusting cables on the International Space Station. —AFP



IN SPACE: SpaceX plans to begin test flights of its new passenger Dragon capsule to the station in 2017. —AFP

The right-sized asteroid

NASA picked Bennu out of 500,000 known asteroids in the solar system because it's the right size, easy enough to visit, and contains carbon-rich dust from billions of years ago, says Christina Richey, OSIRIS-REx deputy program scientist at NASA. "We are talking about the start of the formation of our solar system," she said. "Maybe the

precursors to life on Earth or elsewhere."

The space rock is taller than the Eiffel Tower—some 500 yards (meters) in diameter—and passes by Earth every six years, orbiting the sun at roughly the same distance as the Earth. "Bennu is currently the best understood asteroid not yet visited by a spacecraft," Richey said. —AFP

CHICKENS FLOCK BACK TO STATE FAIRS AFTER BIRD FLU OUTBREAK

MINNEAPOLIS: Chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese are flocking back to state fairs across the country after a one-year absence due to a historic bird flu outbreak that forced a ban on live poultry exhibitions in several states.

The outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza was regarded as the worst livestock disease disaster to ever hit the country, costing farmers nearly 50 million birds by the time it ended in June 2015. Iowa, the country's top egg producer, and Minnesota, the No. 1 turkey producer, were by far the hardest hit states.

But because the disease hasn't been detected in the US since the outbreak, the fairs now are allowing bird exhibitions - including competitions for kids sponsored by 4-H and FFA.

Tiana and Kayla Lenzmeier, who live near the east-central Minnesota town of North Branch, grew up in 4-H, and their 10-year-old sister, Ella, is following in their footsteps. But the two older girls missed out on the chance to show their birds last year after the Minnesota State Fair canceled its poultry exhibitions.

The sisters were disappointed, but they jumped at the chance to make special projects to display at last year's fair instead. And they said what they learned during the hiatus is helping them now as they get ready for the fair, which opens Thursday. "Everybody is very glad to have poultry back," said Marla Calico, president and CEO of the Missouri-based International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

Fairs had no choice last year because of the need to protect the country's food supply, Calico said. But they rose to the challenge and came up with innovative ways to let the affected kids participate anyway, she added.

Tiana Lenzmeier, 17, will be showing market geese this year. Since she couldn't show her birds last year, she did her alternative project on the digestive system and poultry nutrition. "We had the opportunity to learn about our birds in depth and I think it helps us with showmanship," she said.

Kayla Lenzmeier, 15, is showing bantam ducks, which she said are "a difficult breed" to successfully hatch. But the



MINNESOTA: In this Aug. 19, 2016 photo, the Lenzmeier sisters, from left, Tiana, and Kayla pose at their North Branch, Minn. home with goose and call duck, respectively, their 4-H poultry entries for the Minnesota State Fair. —AP

pause gave her time for a project she had long wanted to tackle on duck embryology, breaking open incubating eggs every few days and preserving the embryos for a display on how they develop. She said

that helped give her the knowledge she needed to get her ducks to hatch so she could show them at this year's fair. "We were handed a whole bushel of lemons and somehow figured out how to make it

into lemonade," said Brad Rugg, director of fairs and animal science programs for Minnesota 4-H.

Rugg expects only a slight decrease in poultry showings this year compared with a normal 250 birds. One reason for the dip is that some kids switched last year to rabbits or other animals that weren't affected by the ban and stuck with them.

Poultry returned to the Iowa State Fair earlier this month. Participation was down "just a few," said Derek Straube, superintendent of the fair's FFA Poultry Show.

But enthusiasm was high, he said, "especially the kids that have the fancy birds." Breeding fancy chickens is a multi-year proposition for many families, he explained, so missing last year's state fair and county fairs cost them a year's worth of feedback as they strove to perfect their birds. Iowa 4-H members exhibited 710 birds while FFA members showed 266. City people visiting the fair were also glad to have the birds back, Straube said. "There was something missing at the fair without poultry there," he said. —AP



CALIFORNIA: This photo provided by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shows smoke billowing from a wildfire in San Luis Obispo County on Saturday. —AP

AS CREWS TAME WILDFIRE, FOCUS TURNS TO WHAT EXACTLY BURNED

PAINSTAKING AND IMPORTANT WORK

SAN BERNARDINO: In the aftermath of a wildfire, somebody has to figure out exactly what burned. It's painstaking and important work that helps evacuated residents know if they lost everything or have something waiting for them when they return home.

Officials estimate that at least 105 residences and 213 outbuildings have been destroyed in the massive fire that burned ferociously through Southern California mountain communities this week and was still smoldering Saturday.

Those numbers could rise as damage assessment teams pore through the aftermath of the blaze about 60 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, said Fire Marshal Mike Horton of the San Bernardino County Fire Department. Drought conditions in California have left plenty of fuel for wildfires.

The fire sparked Tuesday was 73 percent contained and firefighters who were on the offensive for days were finally transitioning to mop-up phase, officials said. Operating from a mobile command center just south of the 58-square-mile blaze, Horton leads a team of 15 investigators, technicians, hazardous materials experts and others responsible for determining the extent and nature of the damages.

First hand accounts

"We come in right on the heels of the fire," Horton said. "Once it's cool enough, we go parcel-by-parcel." Often properties are so decimated that it's difficult to know if a smoking ash heap was a home, a trailer or a water tank, he said. Technicians consult mobile computer applications that can download geographic data and county assessors' information to learn what might have been there before flames swept through. Numerous photos are taken and each "gets its own narrative" of what the team saw, Horton said.

Some evacuations remained in place but the majority of those ordered out were allowed to return Friday, when crews made huge gains against the blaze, fire spokesman Brad Pittassi said. "Things are extremely positive," said Pittassi,



CALIFORNIA: This photo provided by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shows smoke billowing from a wildfire near Lake Nacimiento in San Luis Obispo County on Saturday. —AP

adding that officials expect more progress and more residents returning home throughout the weekend. At the height of the fire, some 82,000 people were under evacuation orders.

Even before they go back, anxious residents can sometimes get a sense of what awaits them thanks to reports filed swiftly by the damage assessment team. The goal is to compile the data even before the fire is fully extinguished and make them available online, via phone recordings and on postings at evacuation cen-

ters. Maps are color-coded with red areas signifying "complete damage," orange describing damage between 40 and 75 percent, yellow showing damage of less than 40 percent and green meaning no damage. "Green, you're in good shape," Horton said Friday. "Any other color and you should be concerned."

Johanna Santore was among those left homeless. She was running an errand Tuesday when the fire charged through her neighborhood. She tried to rush home to rescue the family's four dogs, six cats and hamster but was blocked by closed roads.

A group of animal rescue volunteers found the house in smoldering ruins - with no signs of the pets. "I'm actually feeling numb," said Santore, who fled with her husband and granddaughter to an evacuation center. "It's like a nightmare."

A prolonged drought has transformed swaths of California into tinderboxes, ready to ignite. Six other wildfires were burning in the state, including one in San Luis Obispo County that forced the closure of the historic Hearst Castle on Saturday. Fire officials say the wind-driven fire, which destroyed 48 structures and burned 31 square miles since it began August 13, is about 3 miles from the hilltop estate overlooking the Central Coast.

The castle, a popular tourist attraction that houses a large art collection belonging to media magnate William Randolph Hearst, canceled tours and closed the grounds to visitors, said California State Parks spokeswoman Gloria Sandoval.

In rural Santa Barbara County, a 15-square-mile wildfire forced the evacuation of two campgrounds. In the southern Sierra Nevada, another blaze feeding on dense timber in Sequoia National Forest forced the evacuation of several tiny hamlets. In mountains north of San Francisco, a 6-square-mile blaze was 80 percent contained after destroying 300 structures, including 189 homes and eight businesses, in the working-class community of Lower Lake. All evacuation orders have been canceled. —AP

NEW ENGLAND DROUGHT MEANS BOLDER BEARS, STRESSED FISH

CONCORD: Bears are bolder, mosquitoes are multiplying and stream-dwelling fish are stressed. Beyond hurting crops and helping the tourism industry, New England's hot, dry summer also is affecting the region's wildlife.

All six New England states are experiencing at least moderate drought, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center, with severe patches in all but Vermont and pockets of extreme drought in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Low rainfall also means low stream flow levels across the region. The US Geological Survey says all six states have areas exhibiting moderate hydrologic drought, with severe spots in Massachusetts and one extreme area in Maine.

Low and warm water stresses fish, such as trout and salmon, forcing them to seek out deeper pools or spring holes. On Friday, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection closed portions of the West Branch Farmington River and the Farmington River to fishing through Sept. 15 after several fish kills.

"This is the first time in memory that we have found it necessary to take action like this to protect our fisheries on these rivers, and it is not a step we are taking lightly," said Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen.

In Maine, officials are recommending that people fish earlier or later in the day when temperatures are cooler. The same goes for southern New Hampshire, said Scott Decker, inland fisheries program director at New Hampshire Fish and Game.

Given that mosquitoes breed in standing water, you might expect fewer instead of more during a drought, said Pete Pekins, wildlife professor at the University of New Hampshire. But the opposite happens

because as water levels drop, river banks and the edges of ponds widen, he said.

Thanks to a mild winter and the current drought, water is warmer and more stagnant, which encourages growth of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, said Jeff Schloss, natural resources program leader at UNH Cooperative Extension. The resulting toxic blooms can hurt everything from microscopic organisms eaten by fish, to waterfowl that feed on those fish.

In Vermont, the drought has lowered water at the Bennington Fish Culture Station to about 30 percent below normal. As a result, biologists reduced the number of times they feed the fish destined for stocking next spring from three times to one, said hatchery manager Monty Walker. He expects fish that usually would measure about 7 inches by September to fall nearly two inches short.

The drought has implications on land as well as water, with bears, snakes and ants among those species venturing further afield in search of food or water. In Quincy, Massachusetts, a timber rattlesnake showed up on someone's front steps. In New Hampshire, bears have been foraging for food at campgrounds and neighborhood trash cans because drought-stricken berry bushes didn't produce as much as usual.

Pekin, the UNH professor, keeps it all in perspective. He notes that herons and other birds are feasting on frogs that have become more visible in ponds, and he himself has been enjoying listening to osprey in his backyard. "In all of this, there are winners and losers," he said. "I have great faith in wildlife to adapt. Next year could be the opposite." —AP



NEW ENGLAND: In this Wednesday Aug. 1, 2007 file photo black bear cubs are seen in Lyme, N.H. Beyond hurting crops and helping the tourism industry, New England's hot, dry summer also is affecting the region's wildlife. Bears are getting bolder, mosquitoes are multiplying and stream-dwelling fish are stressed. —AP



IOWA: In this July 26, 2013, file photo, a motorist fills up with gasoline containing ethanol in Des Moines. —AP

EPA WATCHDOG SAYS GOVERNMENT FAILS TO STUDY ETHANOL'S IMPACT

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration has failed to study as legally required the impact of requiring ethanol in gasoline and ensuring that new regulations intended to address one problem do not actually make other problems worse, the Environmental Protection Agency inspector general said Thursday.

The conclusion in the new audit confirmed findings of an Associated Press investigation in November 2013. The AP said the administration never conducted studies to determine whether air and water quality benefits from adding corn-based ethanol to gasoline. Such reports to

Congress were required every three years under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The AP investigation described the ethanol era as far more damaging to the environment than the government predicted. As farmers rushed to find new places to plant corn, they wiped out millions of acres of conservation land, polluted water supplies and destroyed habitat.

The EPA agreed with the inspector general's findings that it had failed to produce studies as legally required. It said it will produce the first report - on the impacts of biofuels - by

December 2017, and investigate whether ethanol requirements made other environmental problems worse by September 2024. That will be 17 years after Congress passed a law requiring oil companies to blend billions of gallons of ethanol into their gasoline.

President George W. Bush signed the law, but it fell to President Barack Obama to implement it. The EPA said the 2024 study will require investigations about air quality, emissions and how renewable fuels have and might be produced, distributed and used, which it said will be time-consuming and resource-intensive. —AP



LOUISIANA: Dylan Heinan, among other volunteers, piles sandbags in an effort to stop flood waters from rising in Lake Arthur on Wednesday. —AP

AMID LOUISIANA FLOOD DISASTER, YOUNGEST BEAR MENTAL SCARS

DENHAM SPRINGS: After floods devastated pockets of south Louisiana, mental scars are already showing on the youngest victims of a disaster that prompted more than 30,000 rescues and left an estimated 40,000 homes damaged.

Children who endured harrowing rescues are returning home to a jarring landscape that even their parents can scarcely grasp: Homes filled with ruined possessions must be quickly gutted. Damaged schools and daycare centers are closed indefinitely. Parents juggling jobs and cleanup work must also line up caretakers for their kids.

Michelle Parrott's children hear thunder when there is no storm. When rain does fall, they ask their mother if the floodwaters are rising again.

Parrott, her husband and her six children, ages 6 to 17, have slept in cars, a shelter and a hotel room in the week since they had to be rescued by boat. The flooding wrecked their home in Livingston Parish, where one official has estimated that three-quarters of the residences are a total loss after more than 2 feet of rain fell in three days.

"The emotional toll on the kids has been heavy. They're all in a bit of shock and stress and having meltdowns and tantrums," Parrott said. "Trying to get back into their routine is going to be difficult when we don't know what the future holds for us."

Routines are particularly important for her 17-year-old son, Blake, who is autistic and attends special needs classes at one of the many Denham Springs schools damaged in the floods. "He feels unsafe constantly. He's had a lot of breakdowns," she said. "We've had trouble getting his medications in. The therapist flooded, so he's lacking the emotional support he needs from professionals."

Thirteen deaths have been attributed to the storm and its flooding, and nearly 4,000 people remain in shelters. But signs of recovery emerged Friday. Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that FEMA will start paying for hotel rooms for storm victims staying in cars, hotels, shelters or their workplaces. A disaster food stamp program will begin Monday. And the state intends to

start consolidating shelters this weekend as more of the displaced return home or find other places to stay.

The floods hit just as the school year was starting in many districts, reminiscent of how Hurricane Katrina abruptly ended a new school year in New Orleans in 2005. With the city under water for weeks and much of its population scattered for months or even years, the first public school didn't open in New Orleans until three months after the storm.

Some school districts, including in East Baton Rouge Parish, plan to reopen next week. But in Livingston Parish, it could take several weeks for some individual schools to be able to open. All told, Louisiana Superintendent of Education John White said 22 public schools were so heavily damaged around four parishes that they can't be opened by next week.

Amanda Burge, 35, said one of her friends from Denham Springs plans to temporarily enroll her daughter at a school in Covington while they stay there with a relative. Burge said she can't move her three sons to another district because her husband's job is rooted here, but they haven't had time to weigh their options. On Thursday, the couple was racing to clean out their flooded home before the mold sets in.

"Everything is gone. School is gone. Home is gone. Church is gone," said Burge, president of the Parent Teacher Organization at Denham Springs Elementary School. Her 11-year-old son, Logan, smiled at the prospect of a "second summer." "At the same time, I'm starting to miss my teachers and my friends," he said. "I'm wondering if they're all OK from the storm."

Bonnie Nastasi, a professor at Tulane University in New Orleans specializing in school psychology, said addressing the disruption of children's lives is as important as helping them with the trauma they experienced during the flooding. Many had to be rescued in nighttime darkness, plucked from their homes and packed together in crowded shelters. "If they can resume normal routines, that helps them to feel more safe and more secure," Nastasi said. —AP

TAP WATER BACTERIA FOUND IN NEW ZEALAND WOMAN WHO DIED

WELLINGTON: Tests in New Zealand confirmed an elderly woman who died last week was suffering from the type of bacteria that tainted local tap water and sickened thousands of people in a small North Island town, officials said yesterday.

Coroner Peter Ryan announced he had opened an investigation into the death of the 89-year-old woman in Havelock North. He said an autopsy revealed she had other health problems and it will take further testing to determine if the tainted water was a cause in her death.

An estimated 4,000 people in the town of 13,000 have contracted gastric illnesses since last week's outbreak of campylobacter bacteria. Seventeen people are being treated in a hospital, including two who are in critical condition.

Adding to the problems, one tanker of water that was trucked in to provide fresh water for residents was later found to contain E. coli bacteria, forcing embarrassed officials to ask residents to dump that water as well.

The town has now treated both its tap water and the tanker water with chlorine. It is also requesting that residents boil tap water. Health officials say

that new cases of the illness have begun to taper off.

Such outbreaks from tap water are rare in New Zealand, which markets its clean, green image to tourists. Havelock North is located in a picturesque region known for its vineyards.

Officials remain baffled as to how the water supply became contaminated. Campylobacter bacteria are typically spread from animal feces. The government has launched a wide-ranging inquiry into the problem. "We've got to make sure that this never happens again," Health Minister Jonathan Coleman told reporters.

He said a government agency would provide emergency payments to people whose income had been affected by the outbreak, and it was considering further financial help. "We've got to make sure that people can be absolutely confident that the water that comes out of the tap in New Zealand is clean, and clearly something's happened here," Coleman said. Much of the nation's tap water is treated with chlorine. But in places like Havelock North, where the water comes from underground aquifers, local authorities have often considered it safe without such treatment. —AP



NEW ZEALAND: A Hastings District Council water tanker with free water is seen on Campbell St, in Havelock North, after a gastro outbreak in Havelock North, from the Hastings District Council water supply on Thursday. —AP

OLD STEEL MILL WILL SOON BE WORLD'S LARGEST VERTICAL FARM

NEWARK: Stacks of leafy greens are sprouting inside an old brewery in New Jersey. "What we do is we trick it," said David Rosenberg, co-founder and chief executive officer of AeroFarms. "We get it thinking that, if plants could think: 'All right, this is a good environment, it's time to grow now.'"

AeroFarms is one of several companies creating new ways to grow indoors year-round to solve problems like the drought out West, frost in the South or other unfavorable conditions affecting farmers. The company is in the process of building what an industry group says is the world's largest commercial vertical farm at the site of an old steel mill in New Jersey's largest city. It will contain 12 layers of growth on 31/2 acres, producing 2 million pounds of food per year. Production is set to begin next month. "We want to help alleviate food deserts, which is a real problem in the United States and around the world," Rosenberg said. "So here, there are areas of Newark that are underprivileged, there is not enough economic development, aren't enough supermarkets. We put this farm in one of those areas."

The farm will be open to community members who want to buy the produce. It also plans to sell the food at local grocery stores. Critics say the artificial lighting in vertical farms takes up a significant amount of energy that in turn creates carbon emissions.

"If we did decide we were going to grow all of our nation's vegetable crop in the vertical farming systems, the amount of space required, by my calculation, would be tens of thousands of Empire State Buildings," said Stan Cox, the research coordinator at The Land Institute, a nonprofit group that advocates sustainable agriculture. "Instead of using free sunlight as we've always done to produce food, vertical farms are using light that has to be generated by a power



NEWARK: In this Thursday, March 24, 2016, file photograph, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, center at podium, addresses a gathering at AeroFarms, a vertical farming operation. —AP

plant somewhere, by electricity from a power plant somewhere, which is an unnecessary use of fuel and generation of carbon emissions."

Cox says that instead of moving food production into cities, the country's 350 million acres of farmland need to be made more sustainable. But some growers feel agriculture must change to meet the future. "We are at a major crisis here for

our global food system," said Marc Oshima, a co-founder and chief marketing officer for AeroFarms. "We have an increasing population that by the year 2050 we need to feed 9 billion people. We have increasing urbanization." Rosenberg also pointed out the speeded-up process. "We grow a plant in about 16 days, what otherwise takes 30 days in the field," he said. —AP

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Kuwait Times

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم



إستشاري أطفال
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THE PROMENADE RAMPS UP BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES



The Promenade mall, the neighborhood destination in the heart of Kuwait, is ramping up its Back to School Festival activities in the run up to the new school year.

During the remainder of August, The Promenade and The Promenade Culture Centre will host an array of activities, in association with some of its leading retailers to prepare families for the start of the new 2016/2017 term. The calendar of events and workshops has been designed to engage youngsters and their parents during the last days of the holidays.

"The last few weeks of the summer holidays can be very busy for parents and their children. Preparing for school, whether for the first time or returning for a new school year, presents a number of hurdles for families. Being able to assist in making this process smoother is just part of our role within the local community, and we welcome all families to come and get involved," Noor Al-Sadoun, Manager at The Promenade Culture Centre said.

A key aspect of the planned activities is a series of workshops aimed at preparing for the new term for both parents and students. The workshops, 'Creative Notebooks' and 'Fun, Healthy Lunchboxes', are planned for the 20th and 27th of August, and are aimed more towards parents of children in Elementary and Middle School.

Additionally, during the weekends, there will be various activities available for children of all ages to take part in. Those buying new school shoes from participating retailers will be able to get them personalized by Monstariam, Kuwait's top graffiti artist, at The Promenade Culture Centre. There will also be a variety of book readings for children ages 5 and above, with sessions taking place throughout the evening during the course of the weekend.

In addition to the fun activities, the Promenade and the Promenade Culture Center have set up donation boxes for books and school supplies for local charities to distribute accordingly.

"It is a great honor to support efforts in spreading education. By engaging with local families, we are also able to raise awareness for less fortunate children in," Alyah Al-Jasser, the Marketing Manager of the Al Othman Portfolio, which owns the charity fund of The Promenade, said.

"We collaborate on a number of charity initiatives throughout the year to ensure that through our efforts we are not only supporting the local community, but reaching to those most in need in the region as well as raising necessary awareness amongst our loyal customers," she added.

To find out more about the planned activities for the Back to School Festival taking place at The Promenade and The Promenade Culture Center, please telephone 95595123 or follow @promenadeculturecentre and @thepromenadekw on social media channels.



WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net

TSC LAUNCHES ITS OWN POKEMON CAMPAIGN

Joining the trend and buzz created by the internationally loved and known game: Pokemon-Go; The Sultan Center (TSC) recently launched the first Pokemon Campaign in Kuwait at its Salmiya store to become a Poke-stop for the game players to find their targets.

The globally popular Pokemon-Go is a game operated by using your phone's GPS and clock to detect where and when you are in the game and make Pokemon appear, in order for you to catch the Pokemon. The game recently launched at TSC Salmiya attracted a large number of followers from families and adults to teenagers. Commenting on the campaign, TSC's Digital Marketing Manager - Maciej Galas- said: "TSC is always seeking to come-up with creative innovative out of the box ideas to entertain our valued customers. We are glad to be the first retailer to promote the Pokemon campaign and encourage people to join." He added: "the campaign witnessed a large turnout of Pokemon fans who enjoyed being part of such unique activity. The positive feedback we have received will definitely encourage us to entertain Pokemon users with more exciting campaigns". It was interesting to see customers roaming through the store to catch the Pokemon which made TSC Salmiya a game friendly area.

TSC would like to invite its customers to come and visit Salmiya store to experience an unprecedented fun!!! Stay tuned with TSC as more innovative campaigns are coming soon....



SHERATON KUWAIT & FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON KUWAIT WELCOMED LOYAC TRAINEES FOR THE SUMMER 2016

The Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait welcomed the students of LOYAC (the Lothan Youth Achievements Center) during their 2016 summer program which was a five consecutive weeks program aimed to provide youth the opportunity for practical training to acquire valuable working experience and to strengthen the spirit of team working during their summer holidays. Sheraton Kuwait Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait participate in this training program in belief of the

importance of supporting future generations and to help them start their careers and build a successful future as well as youth development potential and investment of the leisure time they have and take the advantage of the summer vacation to gain a wide range of knowledge and expertise that increase their creativity and develop their ways of thinking about the promising future.

On this occasion, Mr. Fahed Abushaar, the General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait and Mr. Mounir Amer-The

General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait stated that "this training program has been carried out for years and we are very happy to be welcoming different students every year acknowledging them about the hospitality industry and its different departments and to be giving them a better understanding of this dynamic industry. We hope with this condensed training we have helped develop their professional future and we look forward to training more students in the years to come".



INDO KUWAIT FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY TO ESTABLISH INDIA MEDIA FORUM IN KUWAIT

Indo-Kuwait Friendship Society, a non-profit socio-cultural Indian Association is taking an initiative of organizing a media forum for Indian media men (from various Indian states) located in Kuwait whether they are a regular news submitter to their home country's newspapers or magazines or online newspapers as a part time reporter or as a freelance writer. IKFS believes that the national integration and thoughts of patriotism is utmost important for

a non-resident Indian. As everybody knows that India a country located in southern Asia with over 1.2 Billion people. It is a federal constitutional republic governed under a parliamentary system consisting of 29 states and 7 union territories. A Chief Minister is an elected head of the local government in a State for a five-year term and can serve unlimited number of terms. Union Territories, unlike States, are directly ruled by

the central government. But some Union Territories in India do have a local legislature and a chief minister (such as Delhi or Chandigarh).

Therefore further exploring of contributions of our fellow citizens towards our home country and the second home where we reside as bread-earning fellow, we should have an unified information about the rules and regulations of a host country especially Kuwait. It will

also promote secularism, democracy, patriotism and friendship between with various citizens of India in Kuwait.

Dr. Ghalib Al-Mashoor, President of IKFS also representing as the iChief Bureau of Kuwait for iDarshana TV Channel said that IKFS understood that there is a necessity of establishing such a forum of intellectual Indian community members who are pioneer in media reporting and have been serving our

motherland India in the fore-front both in India and Kuwait as media man residing in Kuwait.

Interested media people who are hailing from various Indian states are kindly requested to contact thru email: ikfsociety@gmail.com with their credentials, name of the newspaper/magazine with their phone and email IDs. The last date of receiving such information is set 5th of September 2016.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S 'SHARK WEEK' IS BACK

Annual Television Event and Global Entertainment Franchise returns to Middle Eastern screens this month on Discovery Channel, exclusively on OSN

The most fin-tastic time of the year is back and making a huge splash! SHARK WEEK, television's longest-running and most anticipated summer programming event bursts onto Middle Eastern screens this month on Discovery Channel, available only on OSN, the region's largest pay-TV network, from Sunday 28 August at 21:50 KSA time, with all-new jaw-dropping and compelling shark stories guaranteed to keep viewers at the edge of their seats.

This year the shark fun will go beyond the small-screen, with SHARK WEEK content premiering live on Discovery Channel and also on OSN Play, the award-winning online viewing service offered at no cost to OSN subscribers. Take a dive into this year's SHARK WEEK programme line-up:

SHALLOW WATER INVASION - Sunday 28th August at 21:50 KSA
Using a self-propelled shark cage

SHARKS AMONG US - Monday 29th August at 21:50 KSA

Shark encounters are increasing around the globe. The solutions to deal with the public's growing anxiety range from culling to using nets and driftnets - all of which kill sharks. Dr. Craig O'Connell believes he has developed a system that will prove once and for all that sharks and people can peacefully coexist - and live!

SHARKS VS. DOLPHINS: FACE OFF - Monday 29th August at 22:40 KSA

Sharks and dolphins have shared the ocean for ages, but only recently, scientists have begun to understand the true nature of the relationship between these two masters of the sea. It's hostile, and dangerous, mainly for dolphins. Dolphins would rather eat fish and swim with humans; sharks would rather eat dolphins and anything they can sink their teeth into. Dr. Mike Heithaus and his team bring new research that may solve why sharks attack dolphins far more than we ever knew.

AIR JAWS: NIGHT STALKER - Tuesday 30th August at 21:50 KSA

THE RETURN OF MONSTER MAKO - Wednesday 31st August at 22:40 KSA

Professional shark tagger Keith Poe, and marine biologists Greg Stuntz, Matt Ajemian and their team use state-of-the-art technology to try to document a live-predation of a thousand-pound mako shark - what fishermen call a 'grand'. Granders are enormous makos that make a kind of transformation when they reach 10 feet and 1000 pounds - they become more secretive and begin to hunt bigger prey, like seals. And they're hard to find on the East Coast - until Joe Romeiro and team jump in the water after dark and come face to face with them.

JAWS OF THE DEEP - Thursday 1st September at 21:50 KSA

Marine biologist Greg Skomal and the REMUS SharkCam team return to Guadalupe to find the world's largest great white shark, Deep Blue. This time, they deploy two robot subs: one that dives to 300 feet, and another that goes to 2000. Together, they build a profile of how the great whites use the entire water column. The team uncovers hunting techniques and strategies great whites use to ambush their prey - and film a great white's attack on the sub!

TIGER SHARK BEACH - Thursday 1st September at 22:40 KSA

Dr. Neil Hammerschlag is the world's leading tiger shark expert. Now, he's on a quest to answer what he calls the trifecta of tiger shark science: where do these giant sharks mate, where do the pregnant females gestate, and where do they give birth? He hopes to find answers by tagging and tracking 40 individuals across a shallow area off the Bahamas called Tiger Beach. Second only to great whites, the tiger shark's killing power and voracious appetite is legendary - and Neil has to deal with some aggressive sharks while on expedition.

Exclusive OSN Play SHARK WEEK titles include DEADLIEST SHARKS, which looks into the famed White Tip Sharks to see if they really are the world's most deadly shark; JUNGLE SHARK follows marine biologists as they examine how the Bull Sharks of the Serena River in Costa Rica avoid the 12-14 American crocodiles that also live in the river; while SHARKSANTY rounds up the greatest moment from Shark Week 2016, with only the closest calls, biggest bites and greatest gadgets making the cut!

More than just a programming stunt, shark-fans across the Middle East can also get up close and personal with these mysterious creatures at the official Discovery Channel Shark Week Exhibit now open at the Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo, in association with OSN. Featuring a seamless hybrid of digital technology and living marine life, visitors can learn more about shark biology and behavior while wondering at the array of exotic shark species on show, including Hammerhead Sharks, Bonnethead Sharks and Devil Rays.

SHARK WEEK will air weeknights from Sunday 28 August - Thursday 1 September at 21:50 and 22:40 KSA time on Discovery Channel, OSN channel 500, with an extra six hours of exclusive SHARK WEEK content available on OSN Play.



MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT COLLABORATING WITH LOYAC FOUR WEEK PROGRAM

Marina Hotel Kuwait collaborated with LOYAC's summer program to host two students, Olivia Alsayyah and Muneerah Almajideli Abdullah, for an extensive training program which lasted four weeks. During this time, the interns understood the fundamentals of working in a hotel and acquired hands-on knowledge of key functions across the various departments of the hotel with a focus on the Front Office and Housekeeping.

This annual initiative by the Marina Hotel in association with LOYAC reflects the hotel's proactive contribution to the development of the youth. The internship program at Marina Hotel encouraged interns to gain practical work experience in areas that strengthened their aptitude. The students found the hotel's team very friendly and helpful and commented that they would like to intern at Marina Hotel Kuwait next year as well.

Mr. Nabil Hammoud, General Manager of Marina Hotel said: "Encouraging young nationals to acquire knowledge has always been a part of our agenda. We want to give eager and talented minds the opportunity to under-

stand and practice the business essentials of the hospitality sector."

"Students get first-hand experience of being part of a team, and that helps them develop in character, confidence and prepare them in the future for whatever decision they make. We are lucky to have the opportunity to host such talented and ambitious students and wish them all success in their careers," he added.

The interns were allotted tasks and provided with hands on experience of a professional ambience with its daily functionalities. They gained invaluable insight into work-life and environment, while benefiting from a professional service orientation. At the end of their internship period, the interns were assessed and given feedback on their performance by their direct mentor.

This collaboration is an annual internship program which offers college, university and high school students the opportunity to acquire first-hand experience in the hospitality industry.

For more information, please visit our website: www.marinahotel.com



called "The Explorer," marine biologists Mauricio Hoyos and Grant Johnson will investigate a recent discovery at Guadalupe Island - great whites moving into shallow waters at night. This movement shows that sharks entering shallow water are normal behaviour - which would account for some of the shark encounters happening with greater frequency in the shallows along coastlines.

ISLE OF JAWS - Sunday 28th August at 22:40 KSA

In 2016, award-winning shark cinematographer Andy Casagrande discovered that great white sharks had strangely and completely disappeared from the Neptune Islands off South Australia. Where did the sharks go? Searching west along the known great white migration route, he stumbles upon an incredible discovery - a concentration of all male great white sharks off an uncharted island. Andy calls in marine biologist Dr. Jonathan Werry, and together they get up close and personal with a dozen large great whites in the hopes of solving two of the most closely guarded of all the great white's secrets... where they mate and where they have their young. Within this programme, viewers will be able to immerse themselves into the adventure with virtual reality by using the DiscoveryVR app.

Famed shark photographer Chris Fallows embarks on his 8th Air Jaws adventure with shark expert Jeff Kurr and shark biologist Neil Hammerschlag as they discover how great white sharks hunt in total darkness. Narrated by Lena Headey ('Game of Thrones'), it turns out that great whites can hunt effectively with or without any sun or moonlight - but how do they do that?

THE KILLING GAMES - Tuesday 30th August at 22:40 KSA

Dr. Jonathan Werry and shark cinematographer Andy Casagrande travel to a special location in South Australia to research a new great white hunting strategy, where they no longer wait for seals to enter the ocean - they come out of the water and snatch them from the shore! But is this unique to Australia? It isn't; sharks are smarter than we thought and can learn new things when there's food involved.

WRATH OF A GREAT WHITE SERIAL KILLER - Wednesday 31st August at 21:50 KSA

A newcomer has taken residence in the waters of the Pacific Northwest... the great white shark. Shark expert Ralph Collier and Brandon McMillian seek answers to the main questions in this case - why are great white sharks traveling so far north and why are these encounters focused on this one particular place?

US EMBASSY KUWAIT CALLS FOR 2017/2018 FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT (FLTA) PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The United States Embassy in Kuwait calls on Kuwaiti nationals, early career English language teachers, and recent graduates of journalism, mass media, or American or English literature programs to apply for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program. The Embassy is accepting applications until September 3, 2016.

The FLTA Program is a nine-month, non-degree program for early career English teachers or recent graduates in journalism and media or American or English literature. It is fully funded by the Department of State and provides the opportunity for participants to teach Arabic for U.S. students, refine their teach-

ing skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States. At the same time, successful candidates help strengthen foreign language instruction at US colleges and universities by serving as teaching assistants for classes in their native language. Fluency in English is mandatory, demonstrated by a score of no less than 79-80 for TOEFL IBT or 6.0 for IELTS. Ideal candidates for the program have a desire to meet people and become a part of their host community by participating in community events and campus activities. Fulbright FLTA participants are creative and self-reliant team players, who are able to maintain excel-

lent relationships with faculty, staff, and students.

A complete application package includes:

- An online application through <https://apply.embarq.com/student/fulbright/flta/>
 - Original academic transcripts with certified English translations
 - A graduation certificate
 - Three letters of reference
 - A TOEFL or IELTS score report
- Short-listed applicants will be contacted by the Embassy for interviews. Successful candidates will be notified starting March 2017. Program dates are September 2017- June 2018.

Visit us online at [@USEmbassyQ8](http://kuwait.usembassy.gov)

BBC FIRST

- 03:20 Mad Dogs
- 04:05 Doctors
- 04:35 Eastenders
- 05:05 The Musketeers
- 06:00 Eastenders
- 06:30 Holly City
- 07:30 Death In Paradise
- 08:25 Call The Midwife
- 09:25 The Musketeers
- 10:20 Doctors
- 10:55 Eastenders
- 11:25 Death In Paradise
- 12:20 Call The Midwife
- 13:15 The Musketeers
- 14:10 Doctors
- 14:45 Eastenders
- 15:15 Death In Paradise
- 16:10 Call The Midwife
- 17:05 The Musketeers
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 Death In Paradise
- 21:00 I Want My Wife Back
- 21:30 Rev.
- 22:00 Stag
- 22:55 Hebburn
- 23:25 Hebburn
- 00:00 Doctors
- 00:30 Eastenders
- 01:05 Death In Paradise
- 02:00 I Want My Wife Back
- 02:30 Rev.

- 18:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 20:10 Storage Hunters UK
- 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
- 21:00 Dark Woods Justice
- 21:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 22:40 Mega Shippers
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Kindig Customs
- 01:10 Dark Woods Justice
- 02:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 02:50 Mega Shippers

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 03:00 Mega Engineering
- 03:48 Smash Lab
- 04:36 Secret Space Escapes
- 05:24 How The Universe Works
- 06:12 How Do They Do It?
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Smash Lab
- 08:14 How The Universe Works
- 09:02 Mega Engineering
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 Secret Space Escapes
- 11:26 Smash Lab
- 12:14 How The Universe Works
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Mega Engineering
- 14:38 Secret Space Escapes
- 15:26 Smash Lab
- 16:14 How The Universe Works
- 17:02 Mega Engineering
- 17:50 Smash Lab
- 18:40 How The Universe Works
- 19:30 Battle Factory
- 19:55 Battle Factory
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Industrial Junkie
- 21:35 Industrial Junkie
- 22:00 Battle Factory
- 22:25 Battle Factory
- 22:50 How The Universe Works
- 23:40 Smash Lab
- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 Battle Factory
- 01:45 Battle Factory
- 02:10 How The Universe Works

DISNEY CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse

DISNEY JUNIOR

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopedidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:50 Calimero
- 05:00 Zou
- 05:15 Loopedidoo
- 05:35 Art Attack
- 05:50 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:00 Calimero
- 06:20 Zou
- 06:35 Loopedidoo
- 06:50 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopedidoo
- 07:40 Jungle Cubs
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:40 PJ Masks
- 09:10 Doc McStuffins
- 09:40 Doc McStuffins
- 09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Sofia The First
- 11:00 The Lion Guard
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:30 Gummi Bears
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Doc McStuffins
- 14:00 The Lion Guard
- 14:30 Aladdin
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:05 Goldie & Bear
- 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:00 Doc McStuffins
- 16:25 Doc McStuffins
- 16:55 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Sofia The First
- 17:50 The Lion Guard
- 18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 00:00 Doc McStuffins
- 00:30 Sofia The First
- 01:00 PJ Masks
- 01:30 Aladdin
- 02:00 Jungle Cubs
- 02:25 Gummi Bears
- 02:50 Zou
- 03:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:50 Loopedidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopedidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:00 Calimero
- 02:15 Zou

XD

- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak



WANDERLUST ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- Kardashians
- 07:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:20 El News
- 08:45 El News
- 09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 09:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

- 20:30 Ace Of Cakes
- 21:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
- 21:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Iron Chef America

- 17:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Coronation Street
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 21:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials

H2 HD

- 03:40 Last Days Of The Nazis
- 04:30 WWI: The First Modern War
- 05:20 Ancient Aliens
- 06:10 Ancient Discoveries
- 07:00 Dogfights
- 08:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 09:00 The Universe
- 10:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 11:00 WWI: The First Modern War
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens
- 13:00 Dogfights
- 14:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 15:00 The Universe
- 16:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 17:00 WWI: The First Modern War
- 18:00 Ancient Aliens
- 19:00 Dogfights
- 20:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 21:00 The Universe
- 22:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 23:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 00:00 Ancient Aliens
- 01:00 Dogfights
- 02:00 Ancient Discoveries

H HD HISTORY

- 03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Time Team
- 06:00 Shipping Wars
- 06:25 Shipping Wars
- 06:50 Swamp People
- 07:40 Mountain Men
- 08:30 American Restoration
- 08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 09:45 Ice Road Truckers
- 10:35 Alone
- 11:25 Time Team
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars
- 15:00 WAGs
- 13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 14:20 Car Hunters
- 14:45 American Restoration
- 15:10 American Restoration
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Swamp People: Swamp Christmas
- 16:50 Mountain Men
- 17:40 Swamp People
- 18:30 Time Team
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 21:25 Barry'd Treasure
- 21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 22:40 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 23:30 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 23:55 Barry'd Treasure
- 00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 01:10 Leupu And Pitbull

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 03:45 Zoo Confidential
- 04:40 Born Wild
- 05:35 Hunter Hunted
- 06:30 The Bear Evidence
- 07:25 Zoo Confidential
- 08:20 Born Wild
- 09:15 Animal Army
- 10:10 Planet Carnivore
- 11:05 Dangerous Encounters
- 12:00 Hooked
- 12:55 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
- 13:50 Planet Carnivore
- 14:45 Zoo Confidential
- 15:40 Expedition Wild
- 16:35 Animal Army
- 17:30 Planet Carnivore
- 18:25 Dangerous Encounters
- 19:20 Zoo Confidential
- 20:10 Expedition Wild
- 21:00 Animal Army
- 21:50 Planet Carnivore
- 22:40 Dangerous Encounters
- 23:30 Hooked
- 00:20 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
- 01:10 Planet Carnivore
- 02:00 Brutal Killers
- 02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:50 Science Of Stupid
- 04:15 Science Of Stupid
- 04:45 Incredibly Small World
- 05:40 Money Meltdown
- 06:05 Money Meltdown
- 06:35 Terraced Fields
- 07:30 Explorer
- 08:25 Salmon Wars
- 09:20 Incredibly Small World
- 10:15 Inside: Reinventing Taipei
- 11:10 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 12:05 Life On Mars: The Amazing Rovers
- 13:00 UFOs: The Untold Stories
- 14:00 Brain Games
- 14:30 Brain Games
- 15:00 Hacking The System
- 15:30 Hacking The System
- 16:00 Machine Impossible
- 17:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 18:00 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge
- 19:00 Science Of Stupid
- 19:30 Science Of Stupid
- 20:00 Machine Impossible
- 20:50 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 21:40 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge
- 22:30 Science Of Stupid
- 22:55 Science Of Stupid
- 23:20 Money Meltdown
- 23:45 Money Meltdown
- 00:10 Machine Impossible
- 01:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey

- 04:00 Life In Pieces
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 06:00 George Lopez
- 06:30 The Bill Engvall Show
- 07:00 Life In Pieces
- 08:00 The Simpsons
- 09:00 Young & Hungry
- 10:30 The Bill Engvall Show
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 George Lopez
- 12:30 Life In Pieces
- 13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
- 14:00 Black-ish
- 14:30 Young & Hungry
- 15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 16:00 Grandfathered
- 16:30 George Lopez
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Two And A Half Men
- 18:30 Two And A Half Men
- 19:00 Angie Tribeca
- 19:30 Angie Tribeca
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 21:30 Grandfathered
- 22:00 South Park
- 22:30 South Park
- 23:00 Family Guy
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 01:00 Grandfathered
- 01:30 South Park
- 02:00 South Park
- 02:30 Family Guy

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 04:15 Batman vs. Robin
- 06:00 Pearl Harbor
- 09:15 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
- 10:45 Hercules Reborn
- 12:30 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 14:00 Godzilla
- 16:15 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
- 17:45 Pearl Harbor
- 21:00 Reign Of Assassins
- 23:00 Sabotage
- 01:00 The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:00 Green Card
- 06:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 08:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
- 10:00 Green Card
- 12:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
- 13:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 16:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
- 17:45 Raising Helen
- 20:00 We'll Never Have Paris
- 22:00 The Wedding Ringer
- 00:00 Wanderlust
- 02:00 Raising Helen

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 03:00 The Kid
- 05:00 The Princess And The Frog
- 07:00 Three Wishes
- 09:00 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
- 11:00 Underdog
- 13:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame
- 15:00 Clockstoppers
- 17:00 Toy Story
- 19:00 My Favorite Martian
- 21:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
- 23:00 Clockstoppers
- 01:00 My Favorite Martian

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:15 5 Flights Up
- 05:00 Hello Carter
- 07:00 From Up On Poppy Hill
- 09:00 Rio, I Love You
- 11:00 Perfect Wedding
- 13:00 A Promise
- 15:00 Persecuted
- 17:00 Barely Lethal
- 19:00 The Drop
- 21:00 The World Made Straight
- 23:00 The Gambler
- 01:00 Curve



GODZILLA ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 19:03 Workaholics
- 19:27 TUT
- 20:13 TUT
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 Matt Braunger: Shovel
- 22:18 Inside Amy Schumer
- 22:42 South Park
- 23:05 Underground With Dave
- 23:05 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 00:00 TUT
- 00:50 TUT
- 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 02:05 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula

- 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:20 Dog With A Blog
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Shake It Up
- 09:00 Hannah Montana
- 09:25 Hannah Montana
- 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:30 Jessie
- 11:55 Jessie
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:45 Hank Zipzer
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Liv And Maddie
- 14:50 Dog With A Blog
- 15:15 Hank Zipzer
- 15:40 Bunk'd
- 16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 16:10 Gravity Falls
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:00 Backstage
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Bunk'd
- 18:40 Mako Mermaids
- 19:05 Austin & Ally
- 19:30 Jessie
- 19:55 Violetta
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 01:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

- 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Phineas And Ferb
- 08:40 Camp Lakebottom
- 09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 09:10 Gravity Falls
- 09:35 Lab Rats
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Supa Strikas
- 15:40 Supa Strikas
- 16:05 Lab Rats
- 16:30 Pickle And Peanut
- 16:55 Kirby Buckets
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Annedroids
- 18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty... K.C. Undercover
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Gravity Falls
- 19:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 20:00 Lab Rats
- 20:25 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty... Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 21:45 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 22:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

- 11:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 El News
- 13:35 El News
- 14:05 Botched
- 15:00 WAGs
- 16:00 WAGs
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 19:30 El News
- 20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 Botched
- 23:00 El News
- 23:30 El News
- 00:00 Famously Single
- 00:55 Famously Single

FOOD NETWORK

- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Chopped
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 06:30 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:00 The Kitchen
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Chopped
- 12:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 12:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Man Fire Food
- 14:30 Man Fire Food
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 20:00 Ace Of Cakes

ITV CHOICE

- 03:25 Vera
- 05:15 Eggheads
- 05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 Vera
- 09:50 Murdoch Mysteries
- 10:45 Eggheads
- 11:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 12:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Coronation Street
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
- 15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 16:30 Don't Tell The Bride



A PROMISE ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/08/2016 TO 24/08/2016)

SHARQIA-1 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM
SHARQIA-2 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D JAHEEM FILIHIND PM THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND	1:00 PM 3:15 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-3 SKIPTRACE THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM
MUHALAB-1 THE BFG MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE LEGEND OF TARZAN SUICIDE SQUAD THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
MUHALAB-2 SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE THE BFG JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-1 SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE MIN 30 SANA JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM

FANAR-2 WAR DOGS WAR DOGS SKIPTRACE WAR DOGS WAR DOGS SKIPTRACE	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-3 RABID DOGS SUICIDE SQUAD RABID DOGS MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-4 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE BFG RABID DOGS	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-5 LIFE ON THE LINE LIFE ON THE LINE THE LEGEND OF TARZAN RABID DOGS LIFE ON THE LINE RABID DOGS LIFE ON THE LINE	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
MARINA-1 SUICIDE SQUAD THE BFG THE LEGEND OF TARZAN THE BFG SUICIDE SQUAD SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
MARINA-2 SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FILIHIND JAHEEM FILIHIND SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FILIHIND	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 11:15 PM
MARINA-3 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS NOTUE Special Show "THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS" 4:00 PM	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM

APARTMENT FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, new floor, 4 baths, big living, elevator, security. South Surra, Zahraa.

Tel: 99679188

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sangaraju Subramanyam, holder of Indian Passport No: J7175997, have changed my name to Surapu Raju Subramanyam. (C 5204) 21-8-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS



Fajr:	03:56
Shorook	05:20
Duhr:	11:51
Asr:	15:26
Maghrib:	18:22
Isha:	19:43

EMERGENCY

112

REQUIRED

LEADING AUTOMATION & ELECTRONICS COMPANY

Mechanical, Electronic Engineers & TECHNICIANS

- Should have good experience in maintenance of Gate Barriers - Sliding Gates - Automatic Doors
- Candidates must have Transferable Residence

Fax your CV to 24813873 or Email to Smartjob182013@gmail.com

REQUIRED

Competent Executive Secretary

- University graduate
- Good communication skills with Excellent command of English Language
- Good knowledge in Microsoft office
- Minimum 10 years experience
- Strong analytical and presentation skills
- Transferable Residency in Kuwait

Please email C.V. (Maximum 2 Pages) to the following address: executive.sec2016@gmail.com

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To work in office of reputed organization in Subhan

Having good experience and Computer knowledge of MS Office, Word & Excel Etc.

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Please send CV to Fax - 24743347 or E-mail: ciaco_1973@hotmail.com

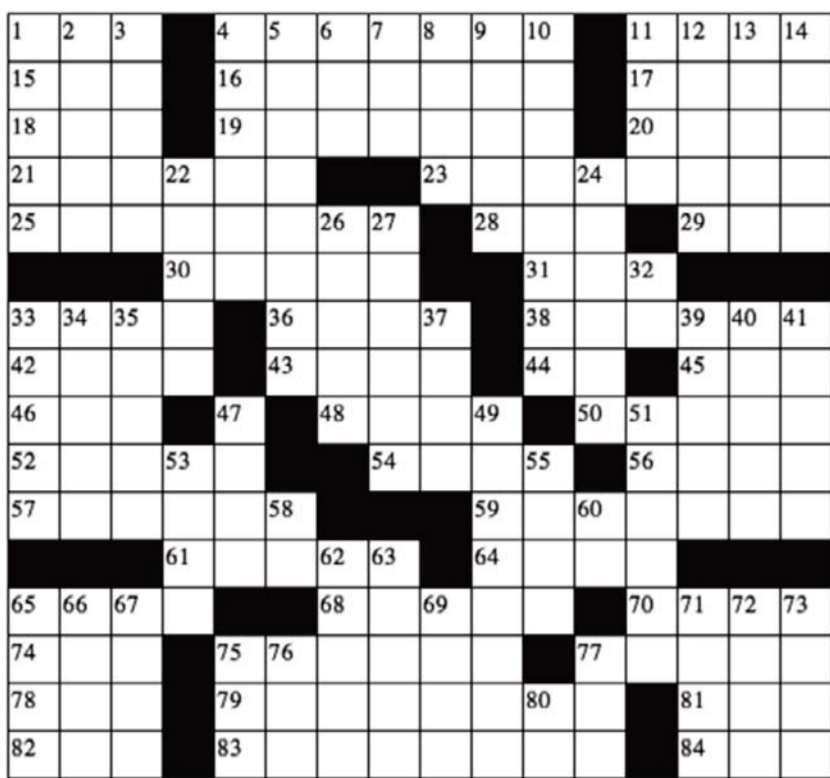


Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 22/8/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 22/8/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDK	804	Damascus	01:35
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
YYY	5555	Bahrain	01:50	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR	KAC	Manila	03:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	RJA	645	Amman	03:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
JZR	555	Alexandria	06:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	08:20	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	BAW	156	London	08:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KAC	173	Munich	08:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JAV	621	Amman	09:25	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	JZR	562	Sohag	09:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	10:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	JAV	622	Amman	10:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
				KAC	103	London	12:10

CROSSWORD 1350



ACROSS

1. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
4. Treated with excessive indulgence.
11. Any of various aromatic resinous substances used for healing and soothing.
15. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
16. Scottish geneticist (son of John Haldane) who contributed to the development of population genetics.
17. On or toward the lee.
18. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
19. Within a building.
20. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
21. Small space in a tissue or part such as the area between veins on a leaf or an insect's wing.
23. Of or relating to the African republic of Somalia or its people or their language and culture.
25. (Christianity) Saved from the bondage of sin.
28. An easy return of a tennis ball in a high arc.
29. Free from liquid or moisture.
30. A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia.
31. The last (12th) month of the year.
33. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
36. Family based on male descent.
38. A Christian Bishop who translated the Bible from Greek into Gothic (311-382).
42. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
43. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
44. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
45. A guided missile fired from shipboard against an airborne target.
46. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
48. Not only so, but.
50. Lower in esteem.
52. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
54. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
56. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
57. A period of 10 years.
59. A wheeled vehicle adapted to the rails of railroad.
61. Deciduous South African tree having large odd-pinnate leaves and profuse fragrant orange-yellow flowers.
64. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
65. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
68. A Nilotic language.
70. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
78. A human limb.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
81. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
82. A watery solution of sugars, salts, and minerals that circulates through the vascular system of a plant.
83. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
84. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.

DOWN

1. Having a pair of equal and opposite charges.
2. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
3. Filled with a great quantity.
4. The second great battle of the American Civil War (1862).
5. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
6. (used especially of persons) Having lived for a relatively long time or attained a specific age.
7. An artificial language that is a revision and simplification of Esperanto.
8. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
9. Register formally.
10. Type genus of the Desmodontidae.
11. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
12. (medicine) Chilly.
13. Hungarian composer of light operas (1870-1948).
14. United States labor leader who was the first president of the AFL-CIO (1894-1980).
22. An annual award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for achievements in motion picture production and performance.
24. Any of various deciduous or evergreen ornamental shrubs of the genus Abelia having opposite simple leaves and cymes of small white or pink or purplish flowers.
26. Of or belonging to an enemy.
27. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
32. A radioactive transuranic element.
34. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
35. Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers.
37. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
39. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
40. The sacred city of Lamaism.
41. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
47. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
49. (Japan) Ritual suicide by self-disembowelment on a sword.
51. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
53. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
55. A small cake leavened with yeast.
58. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
60. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
62. Someone whose business is advertising.
63. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
66. A city in northern India.
67. A tool for tamping (e.g., for tamping tobacco into a pipe bowl or a charge into a drill hole etc.).
69. A recurring sleep state during which rapid eye movements do not occur and dreaming does not occur.
71. Pathetically lacking in force or effectiveness.
72. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
73. (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
75. Of southern Europe.
76. A health resort near a spring or at the sea-side.
77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
80. Being nine more than ninety.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good day to buckle down and accomplish whatever you set out to do. Any group project should proceed along quite well. In addition, any research or any work that requires digging, searching, investigating and getting beneath the surface can be successful. Although today, the main library will be open, the internet is available for research and your own books or the new show at the local museum will have just what you need. This afternoon your taste in art in general is heightened. Perhaps this is a good time to select merchandise or purchase tickets to a play or concert. There are opportunities this evening to just sit back and enjoy what you have. A movie could be enjoyed before the work week begins.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Others may not be as bountiful as you would like them to be when it comes to the social graces. Perhaps the cooperation you seek would be achieved through patience. Because you are gracious and make honest compliments that are appreciated, others will be encouraged to behave in gracious ways. A good volunteer program for you is one for people that are handicapped. You enjoy teaching, guiding and helping them to join in groups that will welcome them with open arms. There are grateful people all around you-those that need help and those that are helpful. Achieving your best, as you express your talents, may gain yourself and others rewards. Tonight you relax with your favorite animal... A few new tricks is where you aim.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You discover new information that leads you toward out-of-the-ordinary subject matters. Perhaps you are a writer or news reporter or have a good lead on some new and unusual sales technique. Whatever the case, you use that information along with your aggressiveness to improve whatever you are involved with at this time. This may mean you are working out-of-town, attending a conference or just studying ways in which to strengthen your position in the workplace. You are outgoing, enthusiastic and diplomatic-everybody's favorite. You really have little to worry over; however, your own experience and education is important to you. You have a natural instinct for making all the right moves. Learn to relax-music, trivia, animals, water games, etc.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

These next few years should be easier-filled with opportunities and friendships. Enjoy them. You will be teaching others about the importance of eliminating judgments and expectations from their lives. You have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to things and people quickly. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. For the next few years, there are energies helping you maintain the stability you enjoy in life. With the knowledge that weather trends seem to be changing and people are most concerned about travel, you remain interested in some exciting adventure or retreat. The ideas are just forming and some time may go by before you actually make your plans but this is a good time to talk to friends about travel and travel dreams.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today is a day you may be celebrating the hard work you have completed. This could mean some achievement, a new home-warming party, the first convention of a new company, etc. Besides and beyond the festivities all around there is the most important celebration of your own birth. If you find things rather quiet, find a way to drive around, visit or just take a walk... The world will begin to open up for you in the most fascinating ways. You see, the bottom line here is opening up to the positive, reward energies that are available to you now. Your high degree of mental concentration helps you to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication techniques-find new ways to express yourself. Celebrate!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The circumstances in which you find yourself today can be found in the environment or support system that surrounds you. This may mean you are present at a reunion or family dinner or an old friend is back in town and wants some social time. You make a few phone calls or walk in a room where peers or family gather and there is instant recognition, communication and either planning or memories that take over as topics. Gradually, you can work in questions about present and future plans that people have. At this time of progress we seem geared for great changes. With your encouragement, you can create opportunities for people to move in a most beneficial direction. Embrace the past, plan the future, live in the present, positively.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Work, achievement and ambition are on your mind. Perhaps an employee review is in the near future. It is easy for you to work with those in authority. You enjoy working with others and would make a good manager. You can use part of this day to create an employee review for yourself. If you have been keeping a log during the year, especially during special events, you will already have some ideas about the difficulties of the past year and the hopes of a future with the company. This is a positive way to bring situations to the attention of higher-ups. Keeping a log with your notes dated and perhaps signatures of others or copies of letters, etc., will be your ticket to recognition and accountability. Keeping a log each day keeps you focused and on track.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your enthusiasm is strong. You are ready to make an impression that will help to sway a vote or persuade the young to correct their ways. You communicate with consummate skill-it is stimulating just being with you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to study, write and communicate well. The whole concept of value is most important. Financial security and enjoying the finer things in life are what you strive to achieve. Study carefully regarding investments-ask questions! Today you also have the opportunity to focus on philosophy, theology and spiritual values, perhaps through a museum or library. Consider dropping by a kitchen store to see the new inventions for the kitchen.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There is a sense of testing the limits-you must learn to pace yourself. You could be in a fun touring club, nature club or exercise club and the competition or the push you exert will certainly take its toll on you if you do not take time to enjoy and rest between sets of tasks. This afternoon will find that you are full of wit and sharp insights. This could be a time for real breakthroughs in the idea department. You are in top form when it comes to mental activity as well and a couple of the elder people in your neighborhood or in your family will benefit a great deal from your attention and your feedback. With the elderly, mental stimulation and physical conditioning are very important; you could make your living in this area of life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a great time to be with friends or family. Although your need for independence is obvious, occasionally there is a need to come back to the basic foundation of your life, such as family or friends, and touch base with these folks. Updating yourself with the happenings of others and noting the dates of graduations, birthdays, etc., are important and gain you the appreciation from others that you and they occasionally need. This is also a good time to begin the habit of balance where your finances are involved. Sometimes you can be very frugal, living on little and at other times you can blow it all in a moment. Balance is the key. You may find yourself looking for a little romance this evening-at least you enjoy flirtation.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Some past event may be on your mind this morning and you may want to capture the good memories. The experience may spur you to write a poem, make a phone call, dive into some hobby, etc. As your day proceeds and you tend to normal chores, you may be inspired to paint a room or a wall or grab the camera and take a few up-close-and-personal pictures. Perhaps you have a lens on your camera that magnifies and you can photograph a bird nest or the center of a flower. Any of these experiences are in your energy field today and what you create each day, as you have now seen, will flow into the next day and help set the pattern for that day. It is wise, therefore, to make each day profitable and positive and inspiring, as much as possible.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a good day to accomplish much. Good eye-hand coordination and a continued effort make almost any task run well. There is a different sort of work situation playing out today than your regular daily work. This could very well be a volunteer position or a position in a religious setting that will help a group to profit or improve or grow spiritually. You are encouraged to lend as much effort as possible and your attitude would best serve you to be pleasant and energy filled. Later today, the time is yours to nap, swim, sing, drive, exercise or any other activity that your heart desires. This evening is romantic and you are feeling quite passionate. Music brings an end to a most complete and fulfilling day.

WORD SEARCH

Christmas - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

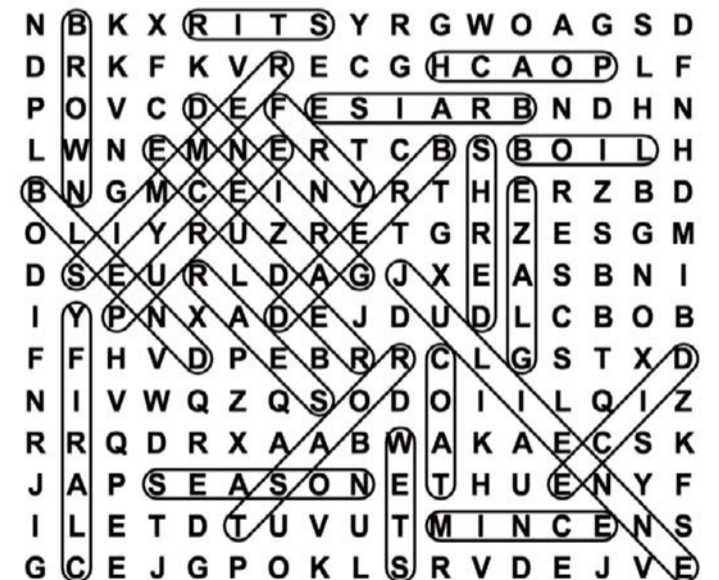


- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| ANGEL | GOLD | SHEPHERDS |
| BELLS | JESUS | SINGING |
| BETHLEHEM | JOSEPH | STABLE |
| CANDLES | MANGER | STAR |
| CAROLS | MARY | WISE MEN |
| FRANKINCENSE | MISTLETOE | TREE |
| GABRIEL | MYRRH | WREATH |
| GIFTS | ORNAMENTS | |

Yesterday Solution

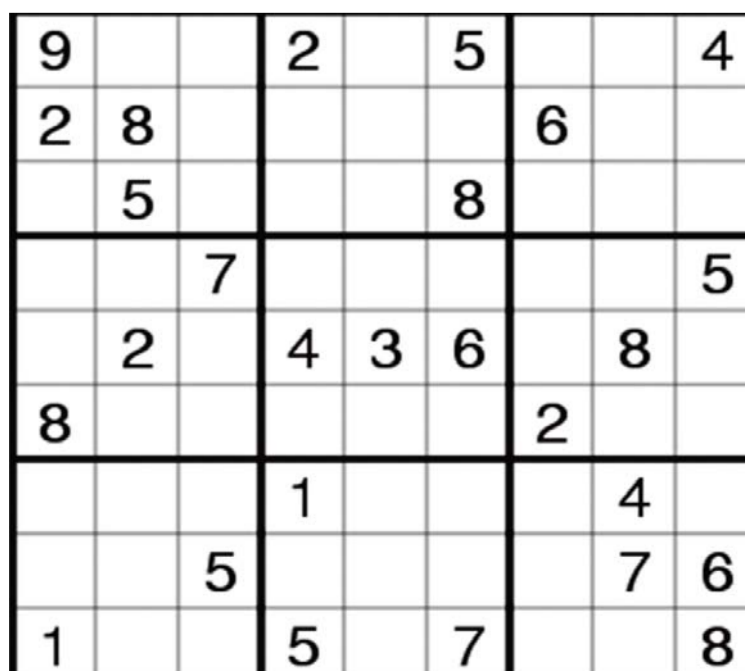
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Cooking 1 - Solution

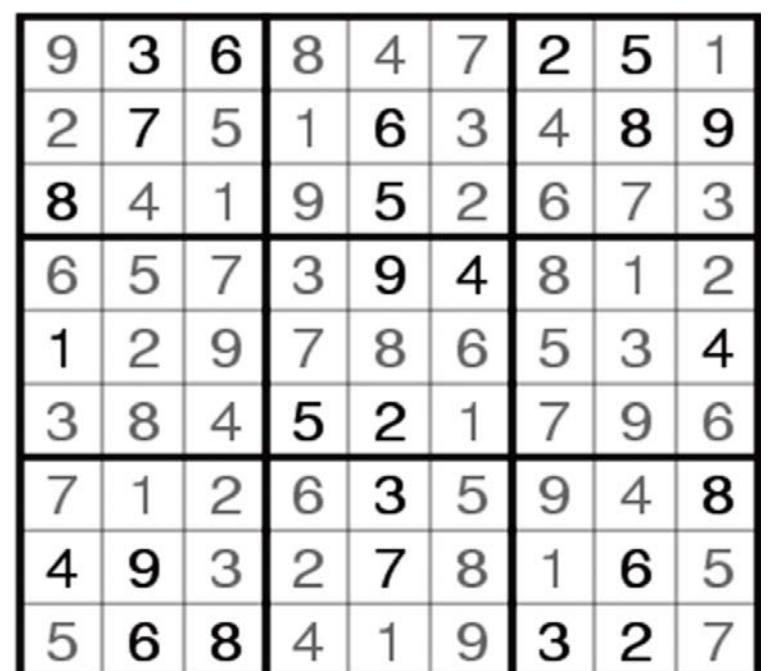


- | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| BLEND | FRY | ROAST |
| BOIL | GLAZE | SEAR |
| BRAISE | GRIND | SEASON |
| BREAD | JULIENNE | SHRED |
| BROWN | MINCE | SIMMER |
| CLARIFY | POACH | STEW |
| COAT | PUREE | STIR |
| DICE | REDUCE | |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

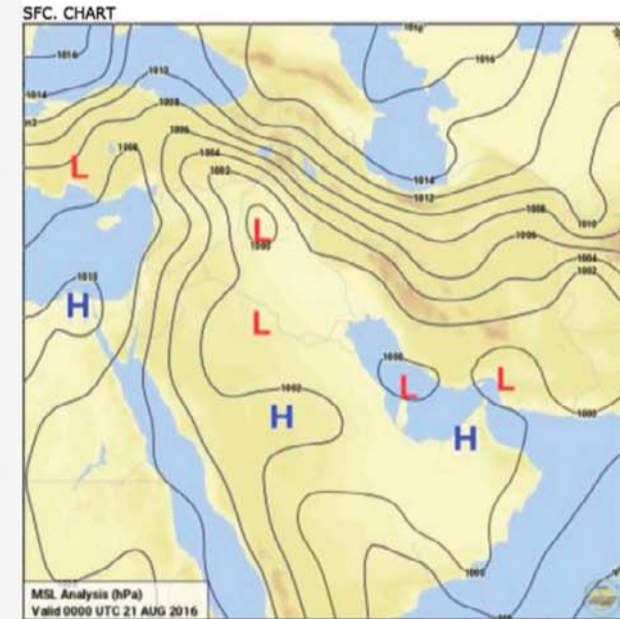


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 21/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr
Max Temperature 47 °C

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly later on wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate south easterly to southerly wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Hot + Relatively humid + high clouds	Hot + Relatively humid + high clouds	Hot + Relatively humid + high clouds	Hot + Relatively humid + high clouds
Min Temp °C	31	32	32	31
Max Temp °C	46	46	45	45
Wind Direction	south easterly	south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 28	06 - 28	08 - 26

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	37		46
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30		47
ABDALLY	30		47
BUBYAN	29		46
JAHRA	33		48
FAILAKA ISLAND	30		46
SALMIYAH	36		43
AHMADI	36		42
JAL ALIYAH	31		46
QAROH ISLAND	34		37
UMM AL-MARADEM	34		39
NUWAISIB	32		44
WAFRA	29		47
MANAGISH	30		47
SALMY	31		45
MUTRIBA	30		48

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	29
Max Rel Hum (%)	25
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:20
Sunset	18:23

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:55
Sunrise	05:20
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:26
Sunset	18:23
Isha	19:43



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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GOSSIP



Barbra Streisand gushes over handsome husband

Barbra Streisand finds her husband attractive even when they argue. Although the 74-year-old actress has been blissfully happy with James Brolin, 76, since they married 18 years ago, she admitted that they do have their squabbles but she often gets distracted by how good looking he is. Barbra told *The Sunday Times Magazine*: "I love beauty, whether it's in a piece of furniture or a man. My husband has the perfect forehead, the perfect jaw, the perfect teeth. Even if he makes me angry, I get a kick out of his symmetry." Barbra also revealed that she once had so little chemistry with a co-star during a play, that she asked for a cake to be left to the side of the stage so that she could pine for it, instead of her leading man. She explained: "It was a chocolate cake and it was put on the stool [in the wings] where I could see it. It wasn't that I had to cry. It was that I was supposed to be in love with the actor but I couldn't feel anything for him. I didn't even like him. I put the piece of cake in the wings so

I could pine for the piece of cake." Meanwhile, Barbra, whose new album 'Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway', is set for release next week, will be voting for Hillary Clinton in the upcoming US Presidential election but believes that the country is still wary of powerful women. She said: "I pray that we will have Hillary as our president, and I think that informed, smart people are going to vote for her. At least I hope so. I've met a lot of people who are powerful and smart, like [US First Lady] Michelle Obama. "When I made [1983 movie] 'Yentl' as a first-time director, I made it in England. Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister and you had a Queen, so powerful women were no big deal. I think in this country we still think of powerful women as suspect, you know, like they're too ambitious or they're control freaks, which is such a shame."

Hearst and Hardwick are married

Lydia Hearst and Chris Hardwick have tied the knot. The couple married in front of 450 friends in a 'Walking Dead'-themed wedding in Pasadena, California, on Saturday (20.08.16). Speaking before the wedding, Lydia revealed her excitement at tying the knot. She told *PEOPLE*: "I could never have envisioned a more perfect wedding day. It's better and more magical than I could have ever dreamed of... It's going to be perfect, and even if it isn't that's how it was meant to be. I'm more excited than anything else! "Everything else is just a bonus, but Chris is the most important person and vital component to me... This is a celebration of our love and an incredible moment to share with our family and friends." Lydia wore a custom-made Christian Siriano gown while her new husband opted for a Prada suit. The couple asked their guests not to buy them presents and instead provided a list of charities they could choose to donate to. Chris explained on Instagram: "Thank you for all your well-wishes and wonderful words lately! Some of you have even gone so far as to ask where we're registered (which is very sweet) so I'm sharing this...@lydiahearst and I are incredibly fortunate people and didn't feel right taking gifts from anyone so our wedding registry instead is a menu of five wonderful charities that we asked our guests to pick any or all of to make a donation toward: St Jude Children's Research Hospital (@stjude), Operation Smile (@operationsmile), GLAAD (@glaad), Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (@egpaf) & Best Friends Animal Society (@bestfriendsanimalsociety). If you're feeling generous and able, this support of others is the best way to support us on our magical day! No matter what, we appreciate you!!! (sic)." Comedian Chris, 44, proposed to heiress and actress Lydia, 31, in September 2015.



Jessica Alba's dumb fear

Jessica Alba thought she was dumb for not going to university. The 35-year-old actress - who founded the billion-dollar empire, The Honest Company - admitted she used to be insecure about her lack of higher education. She told *The Observer Magazine*: "I thought I was dumb because I didn't go to college. I felt if you didn't have a degree you'd never be respected or considered intelligent. Now I realise I'm perfectly capable of doing lots of things." And Jessica admitted she used to be afraid to speak up about being objectified in Hollywood. She explained: "Success in entertainment used to be purely financial for me. Once I was in my mid-20s and had achieved some degree of security, I started looking for something more substantive to focus on. Then when I got pregnant a few years later, I came up with the idea for my company. "When I was young I didn't know how to speak up [at work] and say, 'I don't like this.' I wasn't that person [a sex symbol] people were portraying me as. I come from a pretty conservative background; I was a tomboy wearing baggy clothes. But you're being marketed in a movie to sell it - I understood it was the characters I was playing." However, Jessica - who has two daughters with her husband Cash Warren - never set out to create an empire. She said: "As a new mum, I found it challenging to find effective products without things like synthetic fragrances. I wanted to create a consumer goods company that stands for transparency and is actually profitable. Hollywood can be hard for the faint of heart. People hustle to be successful and then that moment when they feel they've made it, it disappears in an instant. I don't feel like my persona in entertainment defines me. I've never put a whole lot of importance on it. When I was on every magazine cover and in all the new movies, I knew a lot of it would go away. "I spend a lot more time on my business than acting. When I can find the time and it's entertainment, I'll do something."



Aidan Turner 'fed up' of attention over shirtless scenes

Aidan Turner is getting "fed up" over the attention he is receiving for his body. 'Poldark' fans were thrilled when the hunky actor stripped off in the show but his co-star Eleanor Tomlinson, 24, admitted Aidan, 33, would prefer to be recognized for his acting ability rather than his looks. Revealing her hopes that things will "calm down a bit", Eleanor added to *The Sunday Telegraph*: "Only because I think Aidan, bless him, is getting a bit fed up with it. 'Poldark' is about so much more than that one thing. And although of course it's dream publicity for the show and it certainly grabbed people's attention, they didn't want it to be known just for that. "I mean, Aidan's a beautiful man - absolutely gorgeous - but I think he would like to be recognized for his performance, and I would like to stop being asked about his chest." Eleanor - who plays feisty Demelza Carne opposite Aidan's Ross Poldark - also admitted they often get the giggles during their steamy sex scenes. She explained: "They always call 'Poldark' a bodice-ripper but I don't think a single bodice has ever been ripped. And there's something so much sexier about what you don't see - about the heavy breathing on necks. "I'm a complete kid when it comes to sex scenes. It takes me at least two takes to stop laughing. And Aidan's the same - both of us will be laughing our heads off. "It's because they're so incredibly awkward. Even when they close the set there are still 25 people there, and don't forget you've rehearsed it like, so it's all, 'Right, if you put your hand there and I put mine there... Just hilarious. My mum can't bear to watch them."

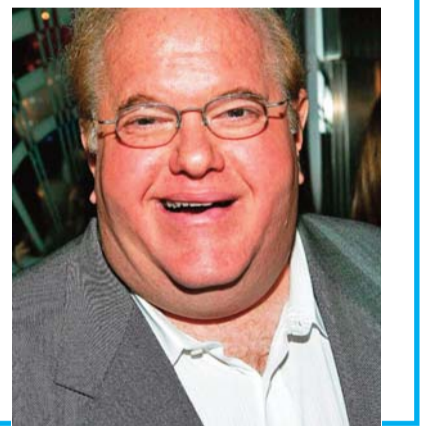


Backstreet Boys creator Lou Pearlman has died

The 62-year-old producer and manager - who created several boybands including the Backstreet Boys, "NSYNC and O-Town - passed away in prison on Friday at the age of 62 after battling an undisclosed illness. Lance Bass tweeted: "Word is that #LouPearlman has passed away. He might not have been a stand up businessman, but I wouldn't be doing what I love today w/out his influence. RIP Lou (sic). Former O-Town singer Ashley Parker Angel tweeted: "Love him or hate him, Lou gave many of us our start. It's a shame he let greed get in his way.

#RIP #LouPearlman (sic)." Aaron Carter added: "#LouPearlman my old manager died in prison... Rip Lou not the best business guy really at all but he did discover me karma is real (sic)." In 2000, Backstreet Boys filed a lawsuit against Pearlman, alleging that their contract was unfair, with both "NSYNC and solo artist Aaron later filing similar suits. However, it was in 2006 that things came crashing down for Pearlman, when he was accused of being behind one of the biggest Ponzi schemes in US history, in which up to 1,700 investors were defrauded out of \$300 mil-

lion. He fled to Indonesia but was captured by authorities in 2007 and convicted the following year after pleading guilty to charges of money laundering, conspiracy and fraud. Pearlman was sentenced to 25 years in prison, with the condition that one month would be taken off his sentence for every million he paid back. *PEOPLE* reports, he never paid any of the money. He suffered a stroke in 2010 and has suffered ill-health since then.



Mel B and Mel C no longer speaking

Mel B and Mel C are no longer on speaking terms. The Spice Girls stars have reportedly fallen out after Mel C pulled out of the band's planned reunion to celebrate their 20th anniversary, which is expected to include a one-off show in London's Hyde Park next July. A source told *The Sun* on Sunday: "While Mel B, Geri Horner and Emma Bunton are ploughing ahead there is no love lost between the Mels, who aren't on speaking terms and haven't been for two months. "Mel B is angry at Mel C for what she thinks is a betrayal of their friendship and is refusing to acknowledge her. "They knew convincing Victoria Beckham to come on board would be tricky but didn't expect Mel C to back out." It was previously claimed that Mel C is "consulting lawyers" to see whether the Spice Girls could reunite without her and Victoria. A source said: "Mel has told the other girls she is consulting lawyers about whether the reunion can go ahead without her. "She believes she brought music credibility to the group and there is no Spice Girls without her." The trio have decided against using the moniker GEM - meaning Geri, Emma and Mel - for their reunited group but are still planning to go ahead with their reunion. Last month, a Spice Girls track called 'Song For Her' was leaked, their first material for nine years. A source said at the time: "Obviously the girls have been recording in the studio over the past few months. "The plan is very much for there to be new music."



Gadot hated Los Angeles when she moved there



The 'Wonder Woman' actress - who grew up in Israel - found the American city overwhelming when she stepped on the American soil because she felt like everyone she ever encountered was connected to the movie industry in some way, although she has revealed she feels more settled because she has made friends in California. Asked about her first impressions of LA, she said: "I didn't like it at all. It felt like everyone was in the industry - the waitress is an actress and the guy at the gas station is a producer. It was too much for me. "But I made friends, and now I can find myself in LA." Gal - who has four-year-old daughter Alma with husband Yaron Varsano - admits she was unsure whether to continue with her acting dreams when she fell pregnant, and though she always "hesitates" when she has to go away to film, she thinks she made the right decision because she wants to be a positive role model for her little girl. She explained:

"There is always hesitation, Alma comes before everything. "Before I had her, when I was just thinking about getting into acting, I wasn't sure how it was going to work with travelling. We lead a really hectic life. "My husband told me, 'What kind of role model do you want to be? You love to work, you love to challenge yourself.' That made me realize I want my daughter to believe everything is possible. "There are a lot of logistics of course. You never sleep in, but it's worth it." When it comes to her own role models, the 31-year-old beauty cites her mother above anyone else because she set such a strong example and gave Gal a great childhood. She told the *National Enquirer*: "My mom [is my role model]. I tell her so, often, to her face. She raised me and my sister to always believe in ourselves. "I had a very happy childhood. I was a tomboy. I had bruises on my knees. I played volleyball, basketball, tennis and dodgeball and I was a dancer all my life too."

GOSSIP



Peter Andre feels 'shy' when he has to take off his top

The 43-year-old TV presenter - who is best known for his 1996 hit single 'Mysterious Girl' and the accompanying video, in which he parades around topless in the sea showing off his ripped body - has admitted he no longer feels confident stripping off his top in public anymore. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz about his fear, the dark haired hunk said: "I'm not much of a shirt taker offer. I'm not into it. Maybe I'm getting a bit shy!" Despite this the star is still in peak physical condition, although he has revealed he hasn't achieved his figure by dieting because he "loves" to eat. He explained: "I don't diet, I like to eat. I have

to exercise though. I feel better than I ever have done in my life." While Peter - who has three kids including daughter Amelia, two, with his wife Emily MacDonagh who is expecting her second child with the musician, as well as son Junior, 10, and daughter Princess, eight, with his ex-wife Katie Price - is pleased with how he looks now, although he wants to look even better by the time he celebrates his 50th birthday. The singer said: "I plan to be fit at 50. I want to do a proper photo shoot at 50. I've got to make sure I am fit at 50 though."

ODELL REGRETS WORKING A LOT WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER

Tom Odell regrets how hard he worked when he was a teenager. The 25-year-old singer credits his drive and ambition to getting him where he is today, but admits he was so focused, he didn't really take the time to enjoy recording his first songs. He said: "When I was 18, I was driven and obsessed with the idea of making an album, almost to the point that I didn't enjoy it. 'I'd go back and tell myself to revel in that time.' Then again, if I'd done that I probably wouldn't be sat here today, because it takes a lot of ambition to get a record deal and make an album." And the 'Another Love' singer still recalls the times he was rejected in harsh ways. Asked if anyone owes him an apology, he said: "When I was 18, I gave my demo CD to a promoter. He walked down the street and put it in the bin in front of me." If he wasn't a successful musician, Tom would have gone down a very different career path. He said: "My biggest extravagance is flowers. My grandma was very into them and I think it rubbed off on me. If I wasn't a musician I'd be a florist." Though the 'Real Love' singer is proud of his career, he admits he wishes he'd had a rethink about some of his outfits when he was starting out. He told Grazia magazine: "I definitely wore some suspicious outfits around the time of my first album. Perhaps it would be nice if the pictures of that were quietly swept under the carpet."



Sean 'Diddy' Combs collects tea sets

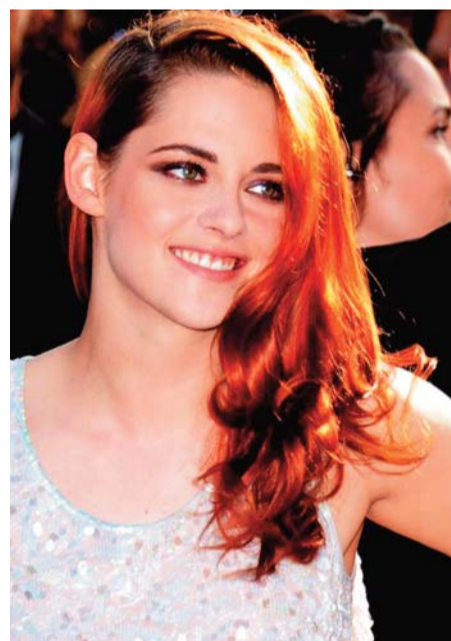
The 46-year-old rapper - who founded his own label Bad Boy Entertainment in 1993 - revealed his surprising hobby in a chat with Us Weekly for their '25 Things You Don't Know About Me' section. Diddy - whose relationship with Cassie Ventura is reportedly on the rocks after a recent row - also called himself a "hopeless romantic". The father-of-six, sons Quincy, 25, Justin, 22, and Christian, 18 and daughters Chance, 10, and twins D'Lila and Jessie, nine, also revealed an "incomplete" and "I eat applesauce with every meal". He also had high praise for Naomi Campbell and Nelson Mandela. He said: "Naomi Campbell is like a sister to me," and "The most impressive and before he found fame as a rapper, Diddy revealed he "once worked as a doorman at a Marriott hotel". Meanwhile, the star was recently forced to postpone his upcoming tour due to a shoulder injury. The rapper was due to kick off the Bad Boy Family Reunion Tour in Columbus, Ohio on August 25 but has pushed it back to September 1 in Chicago so that he will have more time to recover from a recent surgery. His spokesperson said the delay will give him "the much needed time he needs in order to recover and give fans the incredible stage experience they have come to expect from a Puff Daddy production". The concert tour will feature Bad Boy Records artists including Lil' Kim, Faith Evans and French Montana.



Hannah Spearritt has a new boyfriend

The singer and actress called time on her romance with former S Club 7 bandmate Paul Cattermole in November 2015, following just a few months of dating, and has now found love again with Tom Dibble, the son of two Labour councillors, Keith and Sue Dibble. A source told The Sun: "Hannah and Tom are a great match. She gets on well with his parents too." Earlier this year Hannah insisted she has an "amiable" relationship with Paul. The actress said: "I'm single. Me and Paul are talking, it's such a big subject and it's hard not to get too much into it and say it in a nutshell. There's so much to it, we're still friends. We're amicable. Life is too short. We've known each other too long." However, the blonde beauty admitted she was desperate to settle down and have children. She explained: "I've been looking for a boyfriend for so many years... no I'm joking, I'm happy being single." "It would be nice to have children and get married in the future but you've just got to be with the right guy." Hannah was previously engaged to Andrew-Lee Potts but they up and she moved on to fitness fanatic Adam Thomas, who she was also engaged to. However, she dumped him to rekindle her romance with Paul.

Kristen Stewart: I'm thankful for heartbreak



Kristen Stewart is thankful she's had her heart broken. The 26-year-old actress - who previously dated her 'Twilight Saga' co-star Robert Pattinson for five years and is now dating her assistant Alicia Cargile - would rather be able to feel sadness and learn from her pain than shut off all her emotions. Asked if she's had her heart broken, she said: "Oh my Gog, yeah totally. I've been destroyed. Absolutely. "And thank God I have too because I would not exchange feeling so much for feeling nothing at all. "I think the worst that can happen to a person is when they start shutting their emotions down - and sometimes you can't blame them because crazy things do happen and you can never anticipate everything that is going to go down between two people. "But what you must do is not regret or blame the past, but take responsibility for your own happiness, because if you're happy with yourself then you can be happy with someone else. "It sounds really obvious, like I'm going to write a self-help book or something, but I think the worst thing you can do is ignore the pain. You have to feel it and let yourself go, 'Ow that hurts.'" The 'Cafe Society' actress is "obsessed" with other people and rues the fact her fame means she can't just sit and spy on others while out and about. Discussing the downsides of fame to Hello! magazine, she said: "I guess I can't go to the mall any more, but I'm not super-sad about not going to the mall. "Honestly, if I weren't famous I would probably just walk around and people-watch. "I'd like to be able to stare at people without having them stare back at me because I do like to observe people. That's why I'm an actor. I'm obsessed with other people and why they do stuff."

Khloe Kardashian: Kendall Jenner is the best sister to have a diet cheat day with

Khloe Kardashian says Kendall Jenner is the best sister to have a diet cheat day with. Although Kendall, 20, is a super-model, Khloe, 32, admitted she is surprisingly eager to eat junk food and if Khloe needs a break from her healthy diet, she will turn to Kendall. She wrote on her app: "People always find it funny that Kenny is on the anti-model

diet... She loves burgers and pizza and goes to In-N-Out all the time. Kendall is my go-to-girl on cheat day!" However, Khloe is less likely to follow her older sister Kim Kardashian West's eating plan, as the mother-of-two is currently on the Atkins diet. She explained: "I wouldn't last a day on Kim's new diet. I like sweets too much and also don't eat red meat or dairy so I'm saying hell no to this one!" Meanwhile, Khloe has lost an impressive 40lbs after undergoing a strict diet and exercise regime and admitted she was shocked recently when people recently started saying she had taken it too far. Writing on her Twitter account, she said: "I need to remember the date today!! Never would I have ever thought I would be in the media for being "too skinny". What on earth?!?! "First I'm too fat and now I'm too skinny. I love this game!!" The beauty previously claimed many stylists did not want to work with her before she lost weight. She explained: "I definitely think the fashion industry, and people in general, look at me more now that I've lost weight. Even on shoots, I would never have options for clothing. There would always be this attention on my sisters Kourtney and Kim, but I was too much work for [stylists] or they had nothing in my size. I wasn't even that crazy big!" However, Khloe's longtime stylist Monica Rose always managed to find beautiful clothes for her to wear and, as a result, she is now the main person that Khloe turns to for photoshoots and public appearances. She said: "At my fattest, Monica would always come with racks of clothes and make me feel special. She never told me, 'Oh, they don't have that in your size.' Other people actually said, 'I just can't work with you' - because I was too big. That always hurt my feelings, of course." — Bang Showbiz



Courteney Cox frustrates Johnny McDaid



Courteney Cox's reluctance to leave Malibu has frustrated Johnny McDaid. The couple reconciled earlier this year following a brief split, but their friends are now worried about their future following a string of rows during their recent European vacation, largely triggered by the Snow Patrol away from home. A source said: "They really love each other but they can't resolve their issues. "Courteney is such a homebody and hates leaving Malibu but Johnny is desperate to return to Ireland with the wedding pegged for autumn it's causing huge rifts. "Their trip to Europe has been stressful, not just because of tension between Courteney and Johnny's family but also because she's feeling suffocated and uncomfortable away from her own home in Malibu. She hates being away for any length of time.

"Johnny gets frustrated by how restricted that leaves his life, and the thought of being holed up in some LA mansion for the rest of his life is not what he wants." The 52-year-old 'Friends' actress is also said to be reluctant to uproot her 10-year-old daughter Coco from their home and wants to ensure her custody agreement with her ex-husband David Arquette - who is based in New York - stays in place. But pals are hopeful the couple can still reach a compromise. The source told Grazia magazine: "Courteney's done a lot of work on herself to try and be more flexible for Johnny, which is one of the reasons they decided to give it another chance. But she struggles to leave her comfort zone. "Friends just hope that they can reach some kind of compromise and finally make it down the aisle."

Kunis has become 'incredibly selfless' since becoming a mother

Mila Kunis has gained confidence and become "incredibly selfless" since she became a mother. The 'Bad Moms' actress - who is pregnant with her second child with her husband Ashton Kutcher - has admitted since giving birth to her daughter Wyatt 21 months ago her priorities have shifted and "everything" has changed for her. Asked how she's changed since becoming a mother, she said: "It changed everything. It gave me a really interesting sense of confidence. "My priorities shifted and I think I became incredibly selfless "Knowing that I was going to have a baby made me be like, I have to give up so much of myself and I'm happy to do that. "It wasn't like, oh I'll sacrifice. It was more, I want to do this." And the 32-year-old beauty admitted her family life has affected her career choices as she wants to be at home more. She explained: "It makes you pick projects differently. In my twenties I had nothing to lose. I was travelling the world, working non-stop and I was like, life is great, because I didn't have a home to come back to. "Then all of a sudden I had a husband and child and wanted to be at home with my family." Although Mila insists it is "too early" to tell if Wyatt is anything like her, she hopes the youngster is "better" than she is in all respects. Asked if she sees herself in her daughter, she told OK! magazine: "She's a little too young to tell. She's only 21 months but I hope she's better than I am in every single way. "She's funny, I'll tell you that much. She's a very funny kiddo."

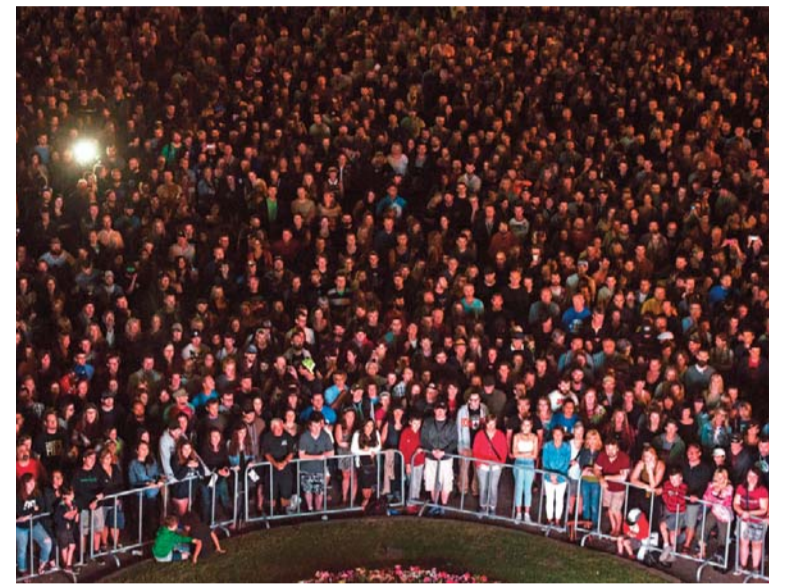




People who could not get a ticket gather in Springer Market square to listen to the Tragically Hip in downtown Kingston, Ontario. — AP photos



Fans gather on Bolton Street in Bobcaygeon, Ontario to watch the Tragically Hip's final concert on video screens in Kingston, Ontario.



Thousands attend a public viewing of the, The Tragically Hip's final concert in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

CANADIANS BID ADIEU TO BELOVED BAND WHOSE SINGER IS DYING

The rock concert did not begin with a rock song. Instead, it started with flag-waving fans breaking into a national anthem, "O Canada." The impromptu tribute by an emotional sold-out crowd that included Prime Minister Justin Trudeau began what was expected to be the final performance Saturday by Tragically Hip, a group known as Canada's Band, and lead singer and songwriter Gord Downie, dubbed Canada's unofficial poet laureate. Downie has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, and fans across Canada and abroad gathered at viewing parties to tune in and bid him farewell.

The bluesy rock band is better known as The Hip, and Downie is known for penning paens to Canadian life: about hockey and desolate small towns, about literature and the French explorer who named Canada. Being so defiantly Canadian might be one reason why The Hip sent nine of its 13 albums to No. 1 in Canada, but none above the top 100 in the US. After spending three decades together, The Hip returned on Saturday night to where they began as a college rock band, the Lake Ontario city of Kingston. Those who couldn't get into the Rogers K-Rock Centre massed nearby to watch on a giant screen.

While the band was careful not to declare that its now-concluded 15-show "Man Machine Poem" tour would be its last, the concert had an aura that was both celebratory and somber. Despite being diagnosed with glioblastoma, the most aggressive cancerous brain tumor, an energetic Downie was in fine form as he and his bandmates played an epic 30-song set, punctuated by three encores. Trudeau, on learning of Downie's diagnosis in May, tweeted that the singer "has been writing Canada's soundtrack for more than 30 years." On Saturday, the prime minister's official photographer tweeted a photo of Trudeau, 44, and Downie, 52, embracing before the show.

Uniquely Canadian

Downie acknowledged Trudeau from the stage. The singer called on the prime minister to take action on behalf of Canada's indigenous people, and then said he expected Trudeau would have plenty of time to do it. "He's going to be looking good for



Fans arrive to watch the Tragically Hip perform live from Kingston, Ontario, from Calgary, Alberta.



Lead singer Gord Downie is seen performing on a screen as a man watches during a viewing party for the final stop in Kingston, Ontario, from Vancouver, British Columbia.

about at least 12 more years. I don't know if they let you go beyond that. But he'll do it," Downie told concertgoers between songs. Trudeau could be seen in the audience nodding and mouthing "thank you." Trudeau reminisced in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. about how he enjoyed the band's music during high school and college, and said the band remains uniquely Canadian.

On Twitter, the prime minister said: "On behalf of Canadians, I thank Gord Downie and the Hip for their decades of service to Canadian music. Forever in our hearts and playlists." While The Hip became one of Canada's most beloved rock bands, lasting success in the US was elusive - outside of border cities like Buffalo, New York, where viewing parties of the concert's Canadian broadcast

were also held. In Rio, the Canada Olympic House hosted a party for Canadian athletes who wore their red team jackets. Downie, who started the show wearing a metallic silver suit and hat with a "Jaws" T-shirt underneath, hugged and kissed his bandmates - guitarists Rob Baker and Paul Langlois, bassist Gord Sinclair and drummer Johnny Fay. They opened with four songs from their 1992 breakthrough album

"Fully Completely": "50 Mission Cap," "Courage," "Wheat Kings" and "At the Hundredth Meridian." The Hip then segued into songs from their last album, "Man Machine Poem," before running through tracks from "Music @ Work," "Road Apples," "Phantom Power," "Up To Here," "Day For Night" and "Trouble at the Henhouse." The band's biggest hit closed the show, "Ahead By A

Century." Downie gestured as if he was sketching a portrait of the teary audience as the band played the song's final notes. They then embraced, stood arm-in-arm as the crowd roared, and walked off stage. Before performing one song, Downie seemed to reference the outpouring of support from fans since his diagnosis. "Thank you, people, for keeping me pushing and keeping me pushing," he said, which prompted a "Gordie!" chant from the audience. After it ended, Toronto broadcaster and writer Alan Cross tweeted: "We will talk about this show in hushed tones for years to come. #TragicallyHip." — AP



Solo photo shows US singer-songwriter Frank Ocean accepting the International Male Artist award during the BRIT Awards 2013 ceremony in London. — AFP

Frank Ocean releases second album 'Blonde'

After months of suspense and weeks of cryptic online teasing ahead of the release of his long-awaited second album, hip-hop breakout star Frank Ocean has released "Blonde." The album, released late Saturday via Apple Music, comes after the widely acclaimed 2012 "Channel Orange," which defied easy classification by bringing together R&B, jazz and funk with the singer's gentle, often-falsetto voice. Ocean had earlier suggested on his website that the new album would be called "Boys Don't Cry," but that turned out to be the title of an art magazine that includes a CD of the new album.

The 17-song album, which carries a "Parental Advisory-Explicit Content" warning label, was also available at pop-up stores in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and London. In Manhattan fans lined up for more than a block at Mulberry Iconic Magazines—a convenience store that sells beer and sandwiches as well as magazines—for a chance to get hold of

the album, The New York Times reported. "I had the time of my life making all of this. Thank you all," Ocean wrote on his Tumblr social media account. "Especially those of you who never let me forget I had to finish. Which is basically every one of y'all."

The name of the album is spelled "Blond" on the cover, but "Blonde" on Apple. The unpredictable Ocean released on Thursday a 45-minute "visual album" through Apple Music titled "Endless" that featured unreleased tracks along with black and white footage of the singer engaged in a construction project. Much of Ocean's first album "Channel Orange" revolved around feelings of first and unrequited love. Ocean later revealed that his first love was a man, a rare openness in the often macho world of hip-hop that led stars including Jay Z to applaud him for coming out. — AFP

Summer spells cold showers for Russians as hot water cut

For Russians it is a sure sign that summer has really come—the annual, rolling switch-off of municipal hot water that hits homes across the vast country. From Vladivostok on the Pacific coast to the European exclave Kaliningrad, millions of residents are forced each year to shiver through icy showers as authorities say they have to switch off the system carrying hot water underground, in order to fix ageing pipes. The ritual shutdown—which usually lasts several weeks in July or August dates back to the Soviet era and has become a notorious bugbear for those who cannot afford their own boiler.

And while many stoically accept the authorities' reasoning, for others the prospect of no warm water still grates and they scramble to find ways around it. "It is like this every summer but it always annoys me as if it was the first time," an irritated Yuliya Galitch, 43, told AFP after water was switched off at her flat in Russia's second city of Saint Petersburg. The explanation for why exactly hot water is turned off is often hazy at best and

some argue this is a hangover from the Communist period that should have been ditched long ago.

But municipalities around the country insist it gives them an important window to repair creaking infrastructure after the rigours of Russia's freezing winters. "These works allow us to prepare for the new season of heating, to test the drainage system and monitor the ageing of the pipes," the local state-run utilities company in Saint Petersburg said.

Trying to cope

As the hot water runs dry each year, Russians take to Internet forums to discuss experiences and tips on how to get by. "Ten ways to wash your hair without hot water" reads one advice column. "How to wash a baby if you're alone and the hot water has been cut off" says another. Some users suggest bathers simply suck it up and get on with it—hopping under a cold shower and getting their bodies acclimatized to it. But others recommend an elaborate scheme of boiling water in stove-top pots and kettles to limit one's exposure.

"My shower each morning and evening is transformed into a real circus act with a system of saucupans and buckets," says Saint Petersburg resident Galitch. Fittingly for a legacy of the Communist era the annual freeze also sparks a burst of solidarity among Russians now more used to capitalist individualism than communal living. For Pyotr Romanov, 35, the break in hot water gives him a good excuse to revive another typically Russian tradition—going to the public bathhouse.

With a glint in his eyes he recalls the times when as a single man he used to "invite girls over to my place to wash". Up until last year musician Yevgeny used to go to his friends' houses to take a shower when times got tough. But this year he finally bit the bullet and invested in a boiler—which means he is now the one laying on the hospitality. "Now it's my friends who are coming round to my house," he says. "In general when they come to take a shower they bring tea or vodka and it becomes a real social call." — AFP



A woman preparing hot water to wash her hair, in her apartment in Saint Petersburg. — AFP photos



A woman washing her hair with hot water from a bucket, in her apartment.



Hong Kong regional tea making champion Chan Chi-Ping pours hot water for his brew while competing with other participants in the Hong Kong Style Milk Tea international final held during the 2016 Hong Kong International Tea Fair.

Customers gesture as a floor exhibitor (center) scoops up tea samples during the 2016 Hong Kong International Tea Fair.

Visitors (left) sample tea from a floor exhibitor.— AFP photos



Guangzhou regional tea-making champion Bi Run-chao (left) and Shanghai champion Liang Yuan-hui (right) compete in the Hong Kong Style Milk Tea international final held during the 2016 Hong Kong International Tea Fair.



A tea master pours evaporated milk into cups as he prepares milk tea, or 'lai cha', for customers at family-run tea shop Lan Fong Yuen, on a hilly market street in Hong Kong's Central district.



This picture shows pots containing boiling black tea in long cloth sock-like strainers, for making milk tea, or 'lai cha', at family-run tea shop Lan Fong Yuen.

The fuel for Hong Kong's engine: Milk tea

Some cities are fuelled by coffee. In Hong Kong, it's milk tea that keeps things running—a potent nostalgia-infused caffeine hit, with fierce competition to brew the best in town. There are thousands of restaurants offering the full gamut of international cuisines, but the city's no-frills diner-style cafes, some of them decades old, remain perennial favorites with locals, and still do a roaring trade.

Known in Cantonese as "cha chaan tengs" or "tea restaurants" they serve up cheap local favorites, from fried egg sandwiches and buttery French toast to noodle soups and macaroni. The standard accompaniment is a milk tea, or "lai cha"—a tangy, deep-tan brew made from blends of black tea strained repeatedly for strength, then mixed with condensed or evaporated milk. The city gulps down around 2.5 million cups a day. At family-run tea shop Lan Fong Yuen, on a hilly market street in Hong Kong's Central district, business shows no sign of slowing after 60 years.

Owner Lam Chun-chung says the no-fuss nature of Hong Kong's tea restaurants plays a big role in their popularity in a fast-paced city. "People are always in a rush. Having a quick bite with milk tea is fast and convenient," says Lam, who adds that his cafe has much more character than the growing number of sterile coffee shops. "We represent the grassroots. When you are here you feel a sense of community," he says. Customers sit around shared wooden tables, many stopping for just 10 minutes to grab a quick breakfast or mid-morning boost. A tea master juggles steaming pots on an electric stove, straining the hot brews through long cloth sieves—a key utensil for any serious Hong Kong "lai cha" joint.

The sock-like strainer has lent Hong Kong milk tea one of its nicknames: "stocking milk tea". At this cafe, tea is strained seven times to intensify the flavor. Lam taught the current tea master his skills and still drinks a cup or two of milk tea each day. It is an addiction, he says, but also a way to monitor standards.

Extra punch

Milk tea is a local institution and has even made it onto an official list of the city's "intangible cultural heritage". Hong Kong's Association of Coffee and Tea says it is also building a global fanbase. The association has been running Hong Kong milk tea contests worldwide for the past seven years, and they are growing. Earlier this month, competitors from Hong Kong, mainland China, Canada and Australia all competed for the "KamCha" or "Golden Cup" award in the association's largest tea competition, on home turf.

Local contestant Chen Chi-ping, 44, emerged victorious—he has been making milk tea in Hong Kong "cha chaan tengs" for 22 years. "Every detail has to be strictly precise—the heat of the stove, the water temperature," he says. The fragrance and potency, as well as the thick consistency, make Hong Kong-style milk tea unique, Chen adds. It has flowed through the city's arteries for more than half a century, according to association chairman Simon Wong, who tells how it was first served on Hong Kong's docks to sailors and laborers, an earthy adaptation of the weaker version made with fresh milk by the colonial British who governed at that time. "Hong Kong people wanted something with



more punch. So we invented this type of brewing," Wong says. The strength of the tea and the canned milk made it value for money—few ordinary Hong Kongers at that time could afford fresh milk.

Wong's father—a tea trader—was a proponent of the new concoction, setting up one of the first "cha chaan tengs" in Hong Kong, which still exists today. Mainland China has now also developed a taste for Hong Kong-style milk tea, and immigrant communities across the world are introducing it to new countries, says Wong. The winning formula? Both tea champion Chen and cafe owner Lam agree—it is the passion to make a great cuppa. "The most important thing is to put your heart into it," says Chen. — AFP

A tea master makes a milk tea, or 'lai cha'—a tangy, deep-tan brew made from blends of black tea strained repeatedly through a sock-like strainer, at family-run tea shop Lan Fong Yuen, on a hilly market street in Hong Kong's Central district.



Shanghai regional tea-making champion Liang Yuan-hui pours his brew as he competes with other participants in the Hong Kong Style Milk Tea international final.



A tea master pours evaporated milk into cups as he prepares milk tea, or 'lai cha', for customers.



A competition assistant carries a tray of steaming-hot tea for the judges.



Winner of the Hong Kong Style Milk Tea international final, Chan Chi-Ping from Hong Kong (center), holds up his trophy with runner-up Bi Run-chao of Guangzhou (right) and third-placed Chan Wing-hung of Melbourne (left) during the prize-giving ceremony of the tea-making competition held during the 2016 Hong Kong International Tea Fair.



Pedestrians walk past family-run tea shop Lan Fong Yuen (center), on a hilly market street in Hong Kong's Central district.



In this photograph taken yesterday, Acehnese men, dressed in woman's clothing for fooling around, play a game of football to mark the 71st Indonesian Independence Day in Banda Aceh. Indonesia celebrated its 71st Independence Day by holding many traditional and unique games, including men playing football in women's clothing as their obstacle. — AFP



Tiny Spanish publisher clones world's most mysterious book

It's one of the world's most mysterious books, a centuries-old manuscript written in an unknown or coded language that no one—not even the best cryptographers—has cracked. Scholars have spent their lives puzzling over the Voynich Manuscript, whose intriguing mix of elegant writing and drawings of strange plants and naked women has some believing it holds magical powers. The weathered book is locked away in a vault at Yale University's Beinecke Library, emerging only occasionally.

But after a ten-year quest for access, Siloe, a small publishing house nestled deep in northern Spain, has secured the right to clone the document—to the delight of its director. "Touching the Voynich is an experience," says Juan Jose Garcia, sitting on the top floor of a book museum in the quaint center of Burgos where Siloe's office is, a few paved streets away from the city's famed Gothic cathedral. "It's a book that has such an aura of mystery that when you see it for the first time... it fills you with an emotion that is very hard to describe."

Eternal youth? Da Vinci?

Siloe, which specializes in making facsimiles of old manuscripts, has bought the rights to make 898 exact replicas of the Voynich—so faithful that every stain, hole, sewn-up tear in the parchment will be reproduced. The company always publishes 898 replicas of each work it clones—a number which is a palindrome, or a figure that reads the same backwards or forwards—after the success of their first facsimile that they made 696 copies of... another palindrome. The publishing house plans to sell the facsimiles for 7,000 to 8,000 euros (\$7,800 to \$8,900) apiece once completed—and close to 300 people have

already put in pre-orders. Raymond Clemens, curator at the Beinecke Library, said Yale decided to have facsimiles done because of the many people who want to consult the fragile manuscript.

"We thought that the facsimile would provide the look and feel of the original for those who were interested," he said. "It also enables libraries and museums to have a copy for instructional purposes and we will use the facsimile ourselves to show the manuscript outside of the library to students or others who might be interested." The manuscript is named after antiquarian Wilfrid Voynich who bought it around 1912 from a collection of books belonging to the Jesuits in Italy, and eventually propelled it into the public eye.

Theories abound about who wrote it and what it means. For a long time, it was believed to be the work of 13th century English Franciscan friar Roger Bacon whose interest in alchemy and magic landed him in jail. But that theory was discarded when the manuscript was carbon dated and found to have originated between 1404 and 1438. Others point to a young Leonardo da Vinci, someone who wrote in code to escape the Inquisition, an elaborate joke or even an alien who left the book behind when leaving Earth. Its content is even more mysterious. The plants drawn have never been identified, the astronomical charts don't reveal much and neither do the women. Does the book hold the key to eternal youth? Or is it a mere collection of herbal medicine and recipes? Scores have tried to decode the Voynich, including top cryptologists such as William Friedman who helped break Japan's "Purple" cipher during World War II.

But the only person to have made any headway is... Indiana Jones, who in a novel featuring the fictitious

archeologist manages to crack it. Fiction aside, the Beinecke Library gets thousands of emails every month from people claiming to have decoded it, says Rene Zandbergen, a space engineer who runs a recognized blog on the manuscript, which he has consulted several times. "More than 90 percent of all the access to their digital library is only for the Voynich Manuscript," he adds.

The art of cloning

Only slightly bigger than a paperback, the book contains over 200 pages including several large fold-outs. It will take Siloe around 18 months to make the first facsimiles, in a painstaking process that started in April when a photographer took detailed snaps of the original in Yale. Workers at Siloe are currently making mock-ups before they finally set about printing out the pages in a way that makes the script and drawings look like the real deal. The paper they use—made from a paste developed by the company—has been given a special treatment so it feels like the stiff parchment used to write the Voynich.

Once printed, the pages are put together and made to look older. All the imperfections are re-created using special tools in a process kept firmly secret by Garcia, who in his spare time has also tried his hand at cryptology. "We call it the Voynich Challenge," he says. "My business partner... says the author of the Voynich could also have been a sadist, as he has us all wrapped up in this mystery."—AFP



Quality control operator of the Spanish publishing outfit Siloe Luis Miguel works on cloning the illustrated codex hand-written manuscript Voynich in Burgos. — AFP photos